The SPORTS PINK

Saturday, July 20, 2013

55p

Supporting LOCAL sport Daily Echo

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SAINTS NOSTALGIA: A FLASHBACK TO 1983/84

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WHAT'S NEXT FOR WORLD CUP WINNER SISI?

PAGES 20-21

LEGEND: Former Saints star Marian Pahars.

SAINTS ARE HEADING TO THE TOP - PAHARS

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SPORTS REPORTER

MARIAN Pahars believes Mauricio Pochettino could be the man to take Saints to a new level in the top flight.

The club's former striker, who has just taken over as the manager of his home country, Latvia, has given an in-depth interview to the *Sports Pink*, which is printed inside today's paper.

As well as discussing his life, his time at Saints, and his new managerial career, Pahars has also spoken of his delight at seeing Saints re-establishing themselves as a top-flight club under Pochettino (below).

"I have still got friends and people who I speak to in Southampton, and they tell me what's going on, and how the difficult times were," said the

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TERRY PAINE

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CRICKET

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Saints Spotlight

Saints rising

from front page

36-year-old, who played for Saints from 1999 until 2006, making 156 appearances and scoring 45 goals.

"But when someone with money came in, I knew one day Southampton, with that name and those fans, have to be back in the Premier League.

"It's a club for a big league and big achievements. Such history can't just be forgotten.

"I was very pleased when they made it back."

Pahars, himself a young manager with fresh ideas, is impressed with 41-year-old Pochettino, who arrived at St Mary's in January.

"The new coach seems to be a clever boy, and I hope he's going to bring them to a different level," he said.

"He looks good, I like how he presents himself. He's young, and he looks fresh and enthusiastic."

Pahars, below, has been back to watch just one game at St Mary's since leaving the club – last season's 1-1 draw with

Norwich – when, as Skonto manager, he travelled to England with one of his players, Vitalijs Maksimenko, who was signing for Brighton.

While he does not personally know the vast majority of the Saints squad, there is one he does remember well.

"There are not a lot of players I know, obviously, but Adam Lallana I knew when he was a young boy in the academy," he said.

"He was a very good boy and I maybe even played a couple of games with him for the reserves. He can achieve a good future this boy.

"He's a romantic player. He can create from nothing, and this is how I like players. Players like Adam, they always inspire.

"This is what makes football interesting to watch, and unpredictable.

"Obviously, Rickie Lambert, he's fantastic, scoring goals, so strong and powerful and someone who a team like Southampton always will need."

PAHARS' LOVE

Latvian has fond memories of Saints

Gordon Simpson
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SPORTS REPORTER

ICONIC MOMENT: Marian Pahars screams for joy after scoring against Pompey in December 2003.

FOR Marian Pahars, life after Saints has not always been easy.

It is seven years now since the Latvian forward, who won a special place in the hearts of supporters, was forced to leave the club against his wishes.

In the 12-year history of St Mary's Stadium, there can have been few moments more moving than the day a crestfallen Pahars bid his emotional farewell.

Informed his contract would not be renewed just days before, the visibly-distraught striker embarked on a heartbreaking solo lap of the pitch following the final match of the 2005/06 season, waving a tearful goodbye to the fans.

Pahars would take some time to recover from the experience.

"I didn't enjoy my football. I didn't know how to live after I left Southampton. I stopped my football in Southampton really," he said.

It has taken time, but Pahars has finally now rekindled that love of the game, and it is down to his new career – as a manager.

Pahars began coaching in 2010, as assistant boss at Skonto FC. It was a defining moment for him.

"I understood this is my job and this is what I want to do for the rest of my life," he said. "The last few years of my (playing) career I didn't enjoy football, so this was the time I started to enjoy it again."

Two years as manager at Skonto would follow, before Pahars took up the Latvia Under-21 job at the start of the year.

Earlier this month, he was elevated into the position of head coach of the senior national team.

"To be the team's main coach is a great honour for me," said Pahars, who has now completed a journey that has now seen him rise to the top of the Latvian football tree as both a player and a coach.

Pahars was a child of the Soviet Union, born in Ukraine in 1976, but growing up in his family's home in Riga, Latvia.

"I was a happy kid," said Pahars. "We had good schools, a very good education.

"We were living quite an isolated life. We knew everything about our country, but not what happened in the world.

"We had no internet, and little information on television or anything.

"We didn't know, but I suppose we didn't really care either."

At that age, all that Pahars really cared about, outside of his family, was the ball that could almost always be found at his feet.

"I would play at home, at friends', out in the yard, at school, everywhere," he said.

"My best toy was a football. A football was everywhere with me."

It was at the age of eight that he began to be nudged towards playing an organised version of the game, after a coach called Jurijs Andrejevs – who would play a pivotal role throughout his career – visited his school looking for talented youngsters.

"He asked who wanted to play," recalled Pahars. "Everybody was putting their hands up, and he said 'Ok, Saturday morning I will see you in the school stadium'.

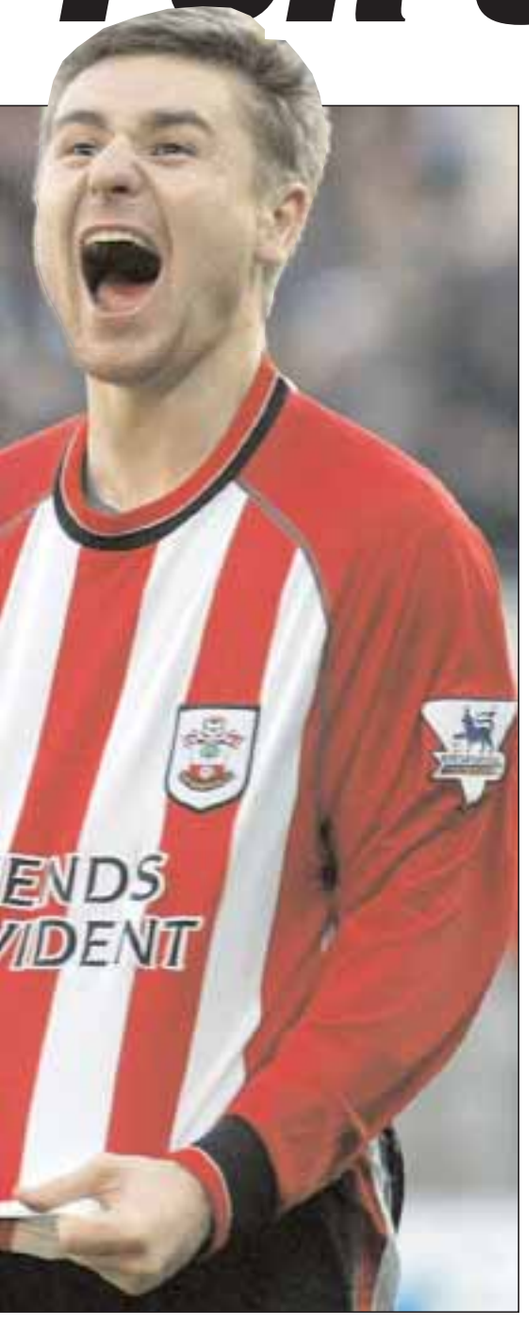
"I went along, and there were a lot of people from other classes there, maybe 50 or 60 kids.

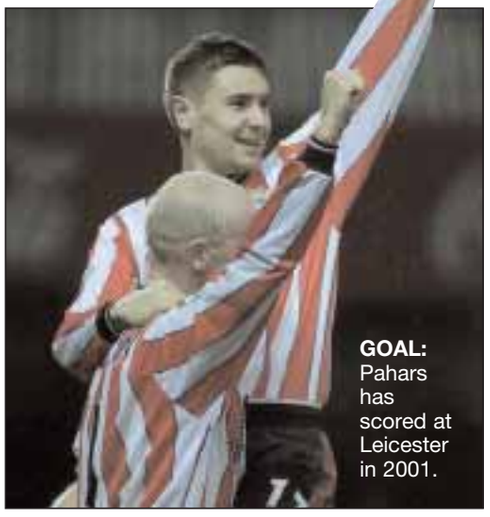
"He threw the ball in and we just

THE PINK & DAILY ECHO: BEST FOR SAINTS NEWS AND VIEWS

Saints Spotlight

FOR SAINTS...





GOAL: Pahars has scored at Leicester in 2001.

AT THE CAR-WASH: Pahars in 2006.

played. Everyone was running around, there were no teams or goals. It was just to get his first impressions of us."

As would be the case with many observers throughout the diminutive forward's career, Andrejevs' first impressions of Pahars were good.

He took the youngster, along with a few others, to a youth academy in the Daugava area of Latvia.

"Luckily, we had a chance to travel a lot," said Pahars. "We went to all the tournaments, so I had a good experience when I was nine or ten. We went to England, all the Russian states obviously, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. I got a lot of experience and I enjoyed myself."

Andrejevs' influence on Pahars would not end there, though.

In fact it would continue throughout his entire career.

"My biggest supporter," is how he referred to him on being appointed Latvia boss.

"He was massive for me," explained Pahars.

""My first professional football club was Pardaugava, where he was head coach.

"When I moved to Skonto Riga he was assistant under Aleksandrs Starkovs, then assistant to the Latvian national team.

"I'm starting my pro licence now and he's my tutor.

"Since eight-years-old we have been together."

As he reached his mid-teens, though, Pahars had to start considering whether football was a viable prospect for a career.

"It was a difficult time," he said. "The Soviet Union had collapsed and people weren't making money.

"It was a difficult time for my family also, and I knew I had to do something to help my parents.

"A couple of times I thought maybe I would be better doing something else.

"But my coach said 'Don't worry, wait a little bit, don't think about money now and later it will come.'"

It started to arrive when Andrejevs moved to Pårdaugava and took Pahars with him.

"They started to give us a little bit of money, maybe like €50 a month, which was good, as we were young boys," he said.

Pahars' dad was a sailor, on large tankers, and would often be away at sea for long periods of time, sometimes as much as a year. As a result, to help his mum, a housewife, he would send half of his money back to her.

At 19, Pahars was signed by Skonto Riga and began to earn a proper wage. He quickly established himself as one of the top players in Latvia and swiftly broke into the national team.

The story then goes that he was recommended to Southampton by Gary Johnson, manager of the Latvian team.

The truth, however, is rather different, not to mention a bit bizarre, and involves a copy of the Yellow Pages, as well as some apparently lax security at Watford's training ground.

"Everything happened just luckily," said Pahars. "There was a guy in England who was an ex-Soviet Union citizen who ran away from Belarus, called Alex Kozlovski.

"He was a football player, and he actually worked at Hearts for a while and became quite well known. But he had gone away from Belarus and came to London.

"He started to do some different jobs, but always wanted to do something in football."

Through friends at the Latvian embassy, Pahars said Kozlovski was put in touch with a director at Skonto Riga, and asked if they had any good players he could try to introduce in England.

The club were willing to help, and sent Kozlovski a set of DVDs.

"At that time we had played some Champions League games against Inter Milan and Barcelona," said Pahars.

"He got these two DVDs and he picked me and decided he would like to introduce me to some English clubs."

Continued on page 4

MARIAN PAHARS' LEAGUE GOALS RECORD FOR SAINTS

1998/99

April 17: Blackburn (H) ..... D 3-3
1 goal
May 16: Everton (H) ..... W 2-0
2 goals

Total: ..... 3 goals

1999/2000

August 21: Everton (A) ..... L 1-4
1 goal
September 11: Middlesborough (A) .... L 2-3
1 goal
September 25: Manchester United (A) . D 3-3
1 goal
Oct 4: Derby (H) ..... D 3-3
1 goal
October 16: Leicester (A ..... L 1-2
1 goal
October 30: Wimbledon (A) ..... D 1-1
1 goal
February 5 West Ham (H) ..... W 2-1
1 goal
March 4: Middlesborough (H) ..... D -1
1 goal
April 15: Watford (H) ..... W 2-0
1 goals
April 22: Manchester United (H) ..... L 1-3
1 goal
May 14: Wimbledon (H) ..... W 2 – 0
1 goal

Total: ..... 11 goals

2000/01

August 8 v Liverpool (H) ..... D 3-3
2 goals
September 9: Charlton (A) ..... D 1-1
1 goal
September 16: Newcastle (H) ..... W 2-0
2 goals
September 30: Middlesborough (H) .... L 1-3
1 goal
February 10: Bradford (H) ..... W 2-0
1 goal
May 1: Newcastle (A) ..... D 1-1
1 goal
May 13: Manchester United (H) ..... W 2-1
1 goal

Total: ..... 9 goals

2001/02

September 15: Bolton (A) ..... W 1-0
1 goal
September 24: Aston Villa (H) ..... L 1-3
1 goal
September 29: Middlesborough (A) ... W 3-1
1 goal
October 24: Ipswich (H) ..... D 3-3
1 goal
November 3: Blackburn (H) ..... L 1-2
1 goal
November 24: Charlton (H) ..... W 1-0
1 goal
December 8: Leicester (A) ..... W 4-0
1 goal
December 15: Sunderland (H) ..... W 2-0
1 goal
December 22: Manchester United (A) .. L 1-6
1 goal
January 1: Chelsea (A) ..... W 4-2
1 goal
February 9: Newcastle (A) ..... L 3-1
1 goal
March 16: Leicester (H) ..... D 2-2
2 goals
April 6: Derby (H) ..... W 2-0
1 goal

Total: ..... 14 goals

2002/03

September 11: Everton (H) ..... W 1-0
1 goal

Total: ..... 1 goal

2003/04

December 21: Portsmouth (H) ..... W 3-0
1 goal

April 24: Bolton (H) ..... L 1-2
1 goal

Total: ..... 2 goals

2005/06

Nov 19: Leeds (H) ..... L 3-4
1 goal

Total: ..... 1 goal

Total league goals: 41

MORE SAINTS NEWS ONLINE AT: WWW.DAILYECHO.CO.UK

PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS – SUMMER TRANSFER WINDOW

ARSENAL
IN: Yaya Sanogo (Auxerre,free)
Out: Jordan Wynter (Bristol City, free), Vito Mannone (Sunderland, undisclosed), Francis Coquelin (Freiburg, loan), Johan Djourou (Hamburg, loan)
Released: Andrey Arshavin (Zenit St Petersburg, free), Samir Bihmoutine, Reice Charles-Cook (Bury, free), Denilson, Craig Eastmond (Colchester, free), Sead Hajrovic, Conor Henderson, Jernade Meade, Nigel Oldfield Spence-Neita, Joshua Rees, Philip Roberts, James Shea, Sebastien Squillaci, Sanchez Watt (Colchester, free)

ASTON VILLA
In: Leandro Bacuna (FC Groningen, undisclosed), Jores Okore (Nordsjaelland, undisclosed), Antonio Luna (Sevilla, Undisclosed), Nicklas Helenius (Aalborg, £2m) , Aleksandar Tonev (Lech Poznan, undisclosed), Jed Steer (Norwich, compensation yet to be agreed)
Out: Derrick Williams (Bristol City, free)
Released: Calum Barrett, Joshua Barton, Courtney Cameron (Torquay, free), Daniel Devine, Richard Dunne (QPR, free), Eric Lichaj (Nottingham Forest, free), Andrew Marshall

CARDIFF
IN: Andreas Cornelius (Copenhagen, £7.5m)

CHELSEA
IN: Andre Schurrle (Bayer Leverkusen £18m), Mark Schwarzer (Fulham, free), Marco van Ginkel (Vitesse Arnhem, £8m)
OUT: Todd Kane (Blackburn, loan), George Saville (Brentford, Loan), Thibaut Courtois (Atletico Madrid, loan), Patrick Bamford (MK Dons, loan), Billy Clifford (Yeovil, loan), Oriel Romeu (Valencia, loan), Milan Lalkovic (Walsall, loan), Daniel Pappoe (Colchester, loan)
RELEASED: Amin Affane, Yossi Benayoun, Abdul Deen-Conteh, Paulo Ferreira, Hilario, Florent Malouda (Trabzonspor, free), Archange Nkumu, Ross Turnbull

CRYSTAL PALACE
In: Stephen Dobbie (Brighton, free), Dwight Gayle (Peterborough, Undisclosed), Jerome Thomas (West Brom, free)
Out: Alex Marrow (Blackburn, undisclosed), Dale Banton (MK Dons, loan)

EVERTON
In: Gerard Deulofeu (Barcelona, loan), Antolin Alcaraz (Wigan, free), Arouna Kone (Wigan, £6m), Joel Robles (Atletico Madrid, undisclosed)
Out: Jake Bidwell (Brentford, undisclosed), Jasper Johns (Sheffield United, free)
Released: Johan Hammar, Thomas Hitzlsperger, Sam Kelly, Jan Mucha, Phil Neville

HULL CITY
In: Maynor Figueroa (Wigan, Free), George Boyd (Peterborough, free), Ahmed Elmohamady (Sunderland, £2m), Curtis Davies (Birmingham, £2.25m), Allen McGregor (Besiktas, £1.5m), Steve Harper (Newcastle United, free)
Out: Andy Dawson (Scunthorpe, free), Jack Hobbs (Nottingham Forest, loan)

FULHAM
In: Maarten Stekelenburg (Roma, undisclosed), Fernando Amorebieta (Athletic Bilbao, free), Derek Boateng (Dnipro, free)
Out: Dan Burn (Birmingham, loan)
Released: Chris Baird, Simon Davies, Mahamadou Diarra, Thomas Donegan, Corey Gameiro, Georgios Karagkounis, James Musa, Richard Peniket, Mladen Petric, Mark Schwarzer (Chelsea, free), Alex Smith (Swindon, free), Csaba Somogyi.

LIVERPOOL
In: Kolo Toure (Manchester City, free), Luis Alberto (Sevilla, £6m), Simon Mignolet (Sunderland, £9m), Iago Aspas (Celta Vigo, £7m).
Out: Andy Carroll (West Ham, £15m), Jonjo Shelvey (Swansea, £5m), Suso (Almeria, loan), Jamie Stephens (Newport, free), Michael Ngoo (Yeovil, loan)
Released: Tyrell Belford, Jamie Carragher, Jamie Stephens, Danny Wilson (Hearts, free)

MANCHESTER CITY
In: Fernandinho (Shakhtar Donetsk, £30m), Jesus Navas (Sevilla, £14.9m), Alvaro Negredo (Sevilla, undisclosed)
Out: Carlos Tevez (Juventus, £12m), Jeremy Helan (Sheffield Wednesday, undisclosed), Roque Santa Cruz (Malaga, free), Maicon (Roma, undisclosed)
Released: Wayne Bridge (Reading, free), Filippo Mancini, Ryan McGivern (Hibernian, free), Roque Santa Cruz, Kolo Toure (Liverpool, free)
continued on facing page

Saints Spotlight

AN EMOTIONAL

From page 3

But Kozlovski had a problem – a big one. He didn't know anyone at any club in the country.

"He had no football connections, just the Yellow Pages," said Pahars. "He started to call clubs. He told me he started to call every team – Premier League, first division, second division – but no one was interested.

"So then he took the DVDs and started to knock on the doors of the clubs, but everywhere he went no one was really talking to him.

"Then he came to Watford. He just came to the training ground and knocked on the doors and opened one door and Gary Johnson was there.

"At that time, he [Johnson] was director of the academy and he was the first one who talked to him. He was polite and nice and listening to him.

"He introduced myself and said 'Please can you look at this boy, because I think he can play at this level here in England'.

"Gary took the DVDs and took his number. He was waiting a few days, then one week, two weeks, three weeks...nothing.

"So, in the fourth week, he went back to Watford and walked inside and went to Gary's door again.

"Gary was sitting at his table, and he asked whether he had watched the DVDs and what he thinks. He saw the DVDs lying in the same place he had put them, so obviously he didn't look at them for whatever reason.

"So he forced Gary to watch it together. They sat there and watched it, and then Gary became interested."

Johnson was then encouraged to go to Moscow to assess Pahars, and any other Latvians that caught his eye, in a tournament called the Commonwealth of Independent States Cup.

"They told me before it started that someone from England was going to travel to watch me play," said Pahars.

But, sensing his big opportunity, the striker became handcuffed by nerves.

"I remember the first game I was so nervous and I couldn't play my game at all," he said. "The second game I played very badly and I didn't know what was happening. I couldn't find my way, I couldn't find my game.

"But Gary came to the third game and in that game I took the ball half the pitch, took on four or five players, and scored a goal."

Johnson was suitably impressed. But the Watford manager at the time, Graham Taylor, was not so convinced and decided not to pursue Pahars.

Watford's loss became Southampton's gain. Knowing he was in need of a striker, Johnson picked up the phone and called Dave Jones at Saints, recommending that he take a look at the player.

Jones agreed, and a trial was set up for early February, 1999.

And the rest is history...or so you might think. But it very nearly wasn't, because Pahars almost didn't get on the plane to come to England.

"When we came back from this Commonwealth Cup I was very ill," he said.

"It was minus-20 here in Riga and I had the flu and a high fever and temperature.

"I didn't want to travel. They brought the tickets to my home and the coach of Skonto Riga, Aleksandrs Starkovs, was travelling with me.

"I said 'I'm not going to go, because I feel ill, what am I going to be able to do there?' I was lying in bed for a week, taking antibiotics.

"He said 'Don't worry. We travel Friday, on Saturday there is a game to watch against Chelsea, Sunday you get the day off, then maybe Monday you work.'

"He pushed me to the plane really. So we went and I felt very bad."

On landing in England, Pahars and Starkovs were met by Johnson, who quickly took them to a chemist, before linking up with Saints.

"I remember Gary met us and we went to the pharmacy, where we got anti-flu stuff," said Pahars.

"I started to feel better and we watched the Chelsea game.

"I was travelling on the team bus and I remember that day when I met the players in the hotel at

THE LONG GOODBYE: Marian Pahars' body language says it all as he waves goodbye to the Saints fans on his own lap of honour at St Mary's in April 2006.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE SAINTS NEWS

Saints Spotlight

RIDE AT SAINTS

GOAL-DEN BOY: Pahars celebrates a goal against Liverpool in 2000.

Chelsea. I remember my feelings. I didn't speak any English at all, and didn't know what I was doing there. It was unbelievable.

"I was with a Premier League club, and that game and that atmosphere, I didn't know how to react.

"On the Sunday I started to feel better, then on the Monday it was training and Tuesday the reserve game.

"I don't know how I accumulated all the energy. But I knew it was my chance and I tried to play free and do as much as I can."

The story from this point is well known. Playing at Oxford, Pahars scored a "perfect" hat-trick – one with his left foot, one with his right and another with his head.

"After the game they came to me and said they want to sign a contract with me. It was something special, I didn't believe it," said Pahars.

Unfortunately, despite the wishes of both parties, the move wasn't that simple.

"It was a difficult time," said Pahars. "I was waiting almost three months to get my work permit. Three times I was rejected, and if I was rejected a fourth time it would be all over."

FLYING HIGH: Marian Pahars against Everton in 1999.

As the delay went on, Pahars had interest from elsewhere. Dinamo Moscow were "constantly calling" him, while Italian club Salernitana wanted him too.

"But I really wanted to come to England," he explained. "I didn't want to go anywhere else in the world.

"We had a game against Israel, in Israel, and we were travelling back home and were in the airport when they told me it was all done, you are receiving the permit and you are a player of Southampton FC now.

"From the airport I called my wife and told her to get ready, because we are flying to England in a few days."

Saints would pay £800,000 to Skonto Riga for him, in what proved to be a bargain buy, while Johnson became something of a legend in Latvia for his role in getting Pahars to the Premier League and was asked to become the country's manager.

It was a dream transfer, but the first few weeks at Saints were more of a nightmare for Pahars.

"First of all I came injured and couldn't play the first few games, so I was watching from the stands," he said. "I didn't know any English and I was living in the hotel.

"In the dressing room it was very difficult. No one really talked to me, because when they tried they understood I couldn't speak English, so I was just sitting in my own corner.

"The players tried, but it was impossible to communicate with me."

Continued on page 6

PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS – SUMMER TRANSFER WINDOW

MANCHESTER UNITED
In: Guillermo Varela (Atletico Penarol, undisclosed
Out: Sean McGinty (Sheffield United, free), Reece James (Carlisle, Loan)

Released: Reece Brown, John Cofie, Michele Fornasier, Luke Giverin, Luke Hendrie, Luke McCullough, Paul Scholes, Gyliano Van Velzen, Freddie Veseli

NEWCASTLE
OUT: James Perch (Wigan, undisclosed)
Released: Steve Harper (Hull, free), Yven Moyo, Danny Simpson (QPR, free)

NORWICH
In: Javier Garrido (Lazio, Undisclosed), Leroy Fer (FC Twente, undisclosed), Nathan Redmond (Birmingham, £3.2m), Carlo Nash (Stoke, free), Martin Olsson (Blackburn, free), Ricky van Wolfswinkel (Sporting Lisbon, £8.5m).
Out: Jed Steer (Aston Villa, compensation yet to be agreed), James Vaughan (Huddersfield, undisclosed), Grant Holt (Wigan, £2m)
Released: Tom Adeyemi (Birmingham, free), Lee Camp, Olumide Durojaiye, George Francomb (AFC Wimbledon, free), Simeon Jackson, Chris Martin, Ramil Sheriff, Korey Smith (Oldham, free), Marc Tierney (Bolton, free), Elliott Ward (Bournemouth, free)

SAINTS
In: Dejan Lovren (Lyon, £8.5m), Victor Wanyama (Celtic, £12.5m)
Out: Richard Chaplow (Millwall, free)
Released: Frazer Richardson, Danny Butterfield, Dan Seabourne, Ryan Dickson, Ben Reeves, Sam Hoskins (Yeovil, free), Tommy Forecast, Alberto Seidi.

STOKE CITY
IN: Erik Pieters (PSV Eindhoven, £3m), Marc Muniesa (Barcelona, Free)
Released: Michael Clarkson, Rory Delap (Burton, free), Matthew Gledhill, Jadan Hall, Matthew Lund, Andrew Musungu, Carlo Nash (Norwich, free), Michael Owen, Jermaine Pennant, George Rigg, Mamady Sidibe, Matthew Upson (Brighton, free), Dean Whitehead (Middlesbrough, free)

SUNDERLAND
In: Cabral (Basel, Free), Modibo Diakite (Lazio, free), Valentin Roberge (Maritimo, free) , Duncan Watmore (Altrincham, undisclosed), David Moberg Karlsson (IFK Gothenburg, Undisclosed), El Hadji Ba (Le Havre, free), Jozy Altidore (AZ Alkmaar, undisclosed), Emanuele Giaccherini (Juventus, £6.5m)
Out: Ahmed Elmohamady (Hull, £2m), Simon Mignolet (Liverpool, £9m)
Released: Titus Bramble, Anthony Callaghan, Wade Joyce, Matt Kilgallon (Blackburn, free), Ryan Noble, Adam Reed, Ben Wilson

SWANSEA
In: Jose Canas (Real Betis, free), Jonathan de Guzman (Villarreal, loan), Jordi Amat (Espanyol, £2.5m), Jonjo Shelvey (Liverpool, £5m), Alejandro Pozuelo (Real Betis, undisclosed), Wilfried Bony (Vitesse Arnhem, £12m)
Out: Kyle Bartley (Birmingham, loan), David Cornell (St Mirren, loan), Gwion Edwards (St Johnstone, loan)
Released: Mark Gower (Charlton, free)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
IN: Paulinho (Corinthians, £17m)
OUT: Grant Hall (Swindon, loan), Massimo Luongo (Swindon, loan), Nathan Byrne (Swindon, undisclosed), Alex Pritchard (Swindon, loan)
Released: Jack Barthram (Swindon, free), David Bentley, John Bostock, William Gallas, Jack Munns, Jake Nicholson

WEST BROMWICH ALBION
IN: Nicolas Anelka (Juventus, free), Goran Popov (Dynamo Kiev, loan),
Out: James Hurst (Crawley, free), Marc-Antoine Fortune (Wigan, free)
Released: Marc-Antoine Fortune, Zoltan Gera, Gonzalo Jara (Nottingham Forest, free), Romaine Sawyers, Jerome Thomas

WEST HAM
In: Adrian (Real Betis, free), Razvan Rat (Shakhtar Donetsk, free), Andy Carroll (Liverpool, £15m), Danny Whitehead (Stockport, undisclosed)
Out: Robert Hall (Bolton, compensation yet to be agreed)
Released: Carlton Cole, Jake Larkins (Leyton Orient, free), Gary O'Neil, Jack Powell, Jami Rafati, Eoin Wearen.

FOR THE LATEST NON-LEAGUE NEWS: SEE PAGES 22-27 & 40

Saints Spotlight

PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS PRE-SEASON SCHEDULES

ARSENAL
July 14 Indonesia XI (Gelora Bung Karno Stadium, Jakarta) .....W 7-0
July 17 Vietnam (My Dinh National Stadium, Vietnam) .....W 7-1
July 22 Nagoya Grampus (Toyota Stadium, Japan)
July 26 Urawa Red Diamonds (Saitama City Cup)
August 3 Napoli (Emirates Cup)
August 4 Galatasaray (Emirates Cup) 4.20pm
August 10 Manchester City (Olympic Stadium, Helsinki) 3pm

ASTON VILLA
July 10 SV Rodinghausen .....D 1-1
July 12 SC Paderborn .....D 1-1
July 14 VFL Bochum .....D 1-1
July 20 Wycombe (A)
July 23 Luton (A)
July 26 Crewe (A)
July 28 Newport County (A)
July 31 Walsall (A)
August 4 Shamrock Rovers (A)
August 10 Malaga (H)

CARDIFF
July 24 Forest Green Rovers (New Lawn) 7.45pm
July 27 Cheltenham (Abbey Business Stadium) 3pm
July 30 Brentford (Griffin Park) 7.45pm

CHELSEA
July 17 Singha All-Stars .....W 1-0
July 21 Malaysia XI (Kuala Lumpur)
July 25 BNI Indonesia All-Stars (Jakarta)
August 2 Inter Milan (Indianapolis)

CRYSTAL PALACE
July 20 Dagenham (A)
July 24: Gillingham (A)
July 27 Crawley (A)
Aug 3 Waterford United (A)
August 10 Lazio (H)

EVERTON
July 14 Austria Vienna .....L 1-2
July 17 Accrington Stanley ....W 4-1
July 27 Blackburn (A)
August 1 Juventus (San Francisco)

FULHAM
July 14 Cartagines .....W 3-0
July 17 Alajuelense .....W 3-1
July 20 Deportivo Saprissa (A)
July 28: Werder Bremen (A)
August 5: Real Betis (H)
August 10 Parma (H)

HULL
July 15 North Ferriby United ...W 3-1
July 20 Sheffield Wednesday (A)
July 23 Braga (A))
July 27 Birmingham (A)
July 29 Peterborough (A)

LIVERPOOL
July 13 Preston North End (A) ..W 4-0
July 20 Indonesia XI (Jakarta)
July 24 Melbourne Victory (A)
July 28 Thailand (Bangkok)
August 3 Olympiacos (H, Steven Gerrard testimonial)
August 7 Valerenga (A)
August 10 Celtic (Dublin)

MANCHESTER CITY
July 14 Supersport (A) .....L 0-2
July 18 AmaZulu (A) .....L 1-2
July 24 South China (Hong Kong)
July 27 Tottenham/Sunderland (Hong Kong - Barclays Asia Trophy)
July 31 AC Milan (Munich)
August 1 Bayern Munich/Sao Paulo (Munich - Audi Cup)
August 10 Arsenal (Helsinki)

Continued on facing page

I was nobody and

from page 5

Pahars revealed that he considered chucking in the towel and heading home to Latvia at one stage, only to decide that he had to stay and prove he could make it.

"I knew I had to fight for my chance and every day was just that – to survive," he said.

"Sometimes in the mornings I didn't want to go for training. It was a new team and everyone was fighting for their place in the squad, so it was always a battle.

"Back home I was a star, I was a top player and it was a very relaxing atmosphere for me. But there it was completely different. I was nobody and I had to prove myself from the beginning. But I was willing to fight."

While life off the pitch was a struggle, there was one place where Pahars could find sanctuary, and that was on it.

"Outside the training pitch it was difficult, but inside the training pitch or the game field it was easy for me," he said. "That was where my mind was getting rest, because I knew what to do on the field. I wanted to be on the field all the time.

"When I scored the first goal and then we stayed in the league – the 'Great Escape' – everything changed. I started to speak English, the players started to appreciate me and were able to start talking to me and I started to feel at home.

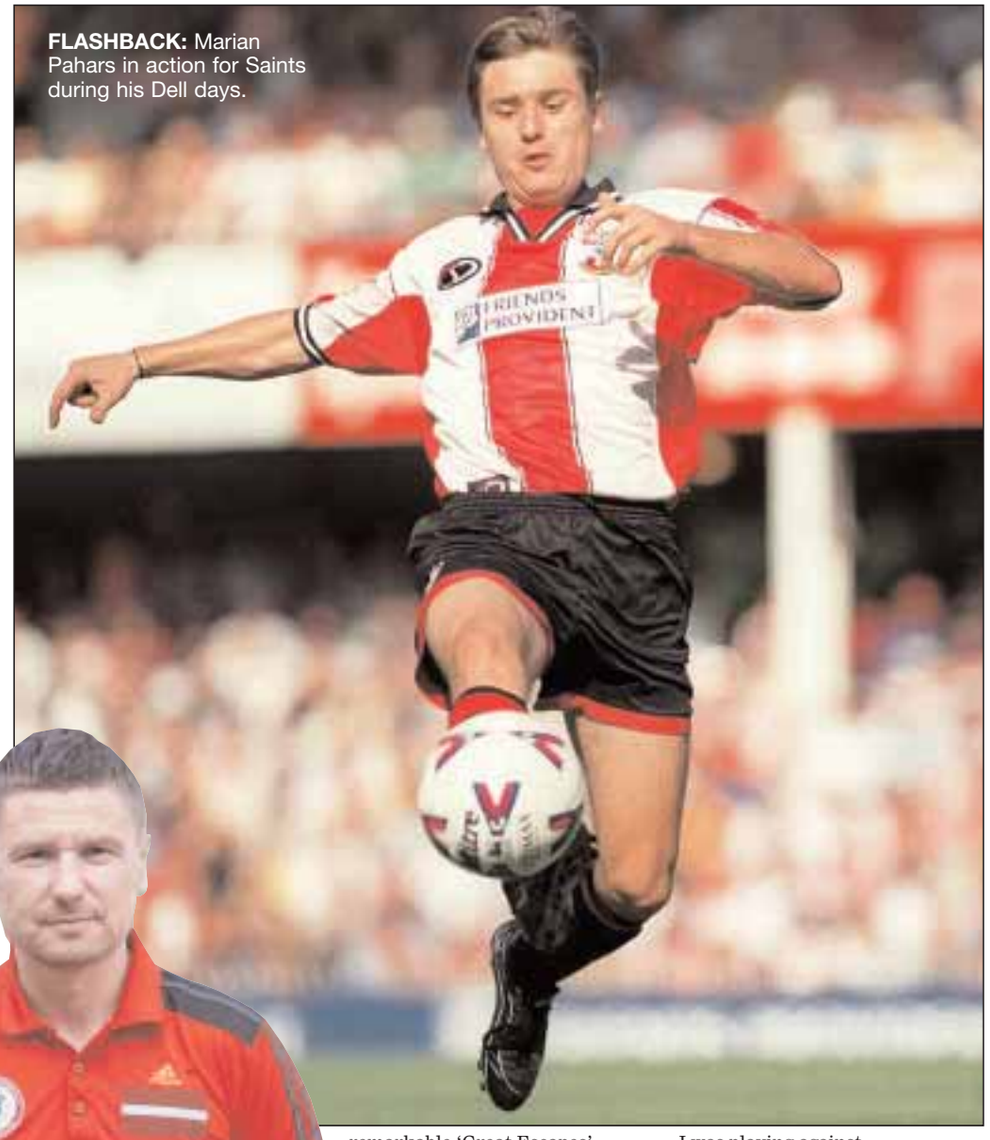
"Since then, Southampton was like my second home."

Pahars said he owed a special debt to John Mortimore, Saints' former president, and his wife for visiting and speaking to him and his own wife regularly.

"He was talking to me, helping with my English, and I took lessons, plus there were a couple of players," said Pahars.

"Jason (Dodd) and Franny Benali really helped me a lot and Matt Le Tissier, he was always very friendly."

Pahars' debut came on April 5, 1999, in a 1-0 away defeat against Coventry. His contribution in the final two months of the season would be invaluable. He scored a crucial late equaliser in a 3-3 home draw with relegation rivals Blackburn, then netted both goals in a 2-0 win over Everton at The Dell on a nerve-jangling final day, as Saints completed one of their remarkable 'Great Escapes'.



FLASHBACK: Marian Pahars in action for Saints during his Dell days.

In amongst all the tension and drama, though, Pahars was something of a bemused participant, admitting he didn't really know what was going on.

"I didn't understand how important it was for the town, for the players, for the fans," he said.

"When they came to me after the game someone said 'You are a hero now' and I didn't understand all that.

"I knew the fans were happy they stayed in the league, and that was the most important thing for me.

"I didn't speak English, I just came over, I even didn't know who I was playing against.

"I just knew I had to come and do my job. It was no pressure on me really from outside. I talked to myself and said 'You're not going to lose anything, just go and play free.'"

He certainly didn't have to worry about being constrained by any instructions from Jones, because he had no idea what his manager was telling him.

"I didn't understand the gaffer or what they wanted from me, but I knew I had to score goals," he said. "I could play free from any schemes or instructions, and that helped me from the beginning."

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Saints Spotlight

had to prove myself

FORMER SAINTS: Marian Pahars takes on Chris Perry in 2000.

GOAL: Pahars scores against Everton in 1999, left, and at Leicester in 2001, above.

Pahars learned quickly, however.

"I didn't know a lot," he said. "But when I came I tried to learn everything about English football. I tried to use every hour to learn and analyse the teams. It just was interesting. Everything about the football was interesting."

Pahars scored some famous goals during his career, perhaps none as beautiful as his nutmeg of Jaap Stam and nonchalant finish past Massimo Taibi in Saints' memorable 3-3 draw away to Manchester United in September 1999.

Even then, though, Pahars was blissfully and charmingly unaware of the significance to Saints fans of what he had done.

"At the time I didn't feel anything special," he said. "Now people talk to me and they still remember, and I understand it means something to them. But, at that time, it was my job – you're a striker, you have to score goals."

Laughing, he added: "I hope Jaap Stam has forgiven me for it."

It was such moments that meant the tag of being the "Latvian Michael Owen" would continue to follow Pahars around.

He once stated he was tired of the comparison, but he insists now that he has no real problem with it.

"No, it's ok. The comparison with him, ok, it's good. It's not like they compare me with the cousin of George Weah! Michael was a great footballer," he said.

But of far more consequence to Pahars was another English striker – James Beattie. It was alongside him that Pahars formed his most devastating partnership, as the two forwards struck up a relationship that still lasts to this very day.

"We understood each other very well in the games," said Pahars. "We had a good partnership and I still speak to him now. We are good friends. I knew exactly what he was going to do and where I had to be."

In his seven years at Saints, Pahars played under a host of different managers. He holds great affection for two of them, one of which, unsurprisingly, is the man who signed him.

"As a person, Dave Jones was unbelievable," he said. "He was so generous and for the players he was the top. Of course, he brought me to the club, he gave me my chance, so I will never forget that. Without him I don't know where I will be, so I will always remember him."

However, it was Jones' successor, Glenn Hoddle, who Pahars enjoyed playing under the most.

"He was a good coach and gave me a lot to improve myself," he said. "He understood football a lot. He was a great player himself.

"I know what happened [Hoddle leaving for Spurs] and people in Southampton can't forgive him for that, but when he left, to be fair, he called all the players and he spoke to them and explained why he's doing this. It's not like he ran away completely.

"As a person, as a coach, as an educator, as a tutor, he was the best for me. He talked a lot to the players, which I liked. He's not like someone who never speaks and just picks the teams and forgets."

Yet the perception of Hoddle when it came to Pahars was that he often failed to get the best out of him by playing him out of position, putting him out wide instead of up front.

"The thing is, I am really thankful to him for that," revealed Pahars. "I use now with my players what he gave me with that lesson and how you can influence a player to play out of position.

"I was unhappy to go out wide, but he worked with me and said 'Listen, I know you don't want to play out left or right.' I said 'Of course, I want to score goals and be up front'.

"But he said to me 'If you're going to be a coach and you're going to have three top players in the team, but all are strikers, what can you do?

"Do you put all your three best players on the field, or only two.'

Continued on page 8

PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS PRE-SEASON SCHEDULES

Manchester United
July 13 Singha All Star XI (A) . . .L 0-1
July 20 A-League All Stars (Sydney)
July 23 Yokohama F-Marinos (Yokohama)
July 26 Cerezo Osaka (Osaka)
July 29 Kitchee (Hong Kong)
August 6 AIK Fotboll (Stockholm)
August 9 Sevilla (H, Rio Ferdinand Testimonial)

Newcastle
July 16 Motherwell (A) . . . . . .W 4-2
July 20 Rio Ave (A)
July 23 Pacos de Ferreira (A)
July 28 Blackpool (A)
July 30 St Mirren (A)
August 10 Braga (H)

Norwich
July 18 Dorados De Sinaloa . . .W 3-0
July 21 San Jose Earthquakes (A)
July 25 Portland Timbers A)
July 30 Brighton (A)
August 2 Braga (A)
August 6 Real Sociedad (H)
August 10 Panathinaikos (H)

SAINTS
July 17 UE Llagostera (A) . . . . .W 2-1
July 20 Palamos CF (A)
July 24 Schalke (Austria)
July 27 Besiktas (Austria)
August 3 Celta Vigo (A)
August 10 Real Sociedad (H)

Stoke
July 25 Houston Dynamo (A)
July 27 FC Dallas (A)
July 30 Philadelphia Union (A)
August 3 Macclesfield (A)
August 4 Wrexham (A)
August 10 Genoa (H)

Sunderland
July 24 Tottenham (Hong Kong, Barclays Asia Trophy)
July 27 Manchester City/South China (Hong Kong, Barclays Asia Trophy)

Swansea
July 6 Gravenzande (A) . . . . . .W 2-0
July 7 Excelsior Maassluis (A) .W 5-1
July 10 Haaglandia (a) . . . . . .W 10-0
July 13 ADO Den Haag (a) . . . .W 1-0
July 27 Reading (A) 3pm

Tottenham
July 16 Swindon Town (a) . . . . .D 1-1
July 19 Colchester United (A)
July 24 Sunderland (Hong Kong, Barclays Asia Trophy)
uly 27 Manchester City/South China (Hong Kong, Barclays Asia Trophy)
August 3 AS Monaco (A)
August 10 Espanyol (H)

West Brom
July 18 Hannover 96 L 1-2
July 22 Puskas FC Academy (A)
July 27 Derby (A)
August 6 Cork City (A)
August 10 Bologna (H)

West Ham
July 7 Cork City (A) . . . . . .W 6-2
July 10 Boreham Wood (A) . . . .W 3-0
July 13 Bournemouth (A) . . . . . .W 2-0
July 16 Colchester (A) . . . . . .W 2-1
July 20 Mainz A)
July 23 Hamburg (A)
July 27 Eintracht Braunschweig (A)

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Saints Spotlight

HODD ONE OF BEST

Free coach travel for Potters fans

STOKE have announced they will be offering their supporters free coach travel to all of their Barclays Premier League games in the 2013-14 season.

The Potters are introducing the initiative – which they believe to be the first of its kind by any side in England's top four divisions for an entire campaign – on the back of the increase in their income delivered by the new television deals.

The Staffordshire outfit's chief executive Tony Scholes said: "As a club we are conscious that following football can be an expensive business, especially at a time when so many people are feeling the squeeze financially.

"We work hard to try to provide our supporters with value for money which is why we have not increased our ticket prices since being promoted to the Premier League in 2008.

"However, we realise how expensive following the club away from home can be for supporters and we're delighted to be able to offer free coach travel and hope it encourages more of them to give us their fantastic backing away from home."

Coaches will leave from the Britannia Stadium for all 19 of Stoke's top-flight away matches over the season, starting with their campaign opener against Liverpool at Anfield on August 17.

World Cup ticket pricing revealed

THE cheapest tickets for overseas fans at the World Cup in Brazil next summer will cost 90 US dollars (£59), FIFA has announced.

Tickets will go on sale on August 20 for Brazilian residents. The cheapest tickets will be 15 US dollars (£10) for students, over-60s and those on welfare.

The cheapest ticket for overseas fans for the final is 440 dollars (£288) and the most expensive 990 dollars (£650).

For locals, the cheapest non-discounted ticket will be £20 for a group match up to £588 for a category one seat at the final.

That is similar in price to South Africa in 2010, where match tickets ranged from £14 for local residents up to £630.

The announcement comes against a background of violent protests in Brazil against the cost to the public purse of the staging of the tournament.

The threat of more protests has prompted FIFA president Sepp Blatter to say Brazil might have been the wrong choice as hosts of the World Cup.

He said: "If this happens again, we have to question whether we made the wrong decision awarding the hosting rights."

From page 7

"I said 'I would probably put on all three' and he said 'Exactly'. So I have to think how to use them all on the field. The other two strikers can't play wide or deeper, but you can.'

"That bit about the three best players in the team was like magic for me, because then I understood that the coach was rating me as one of the three best.

"When you know that you can play for him in any position, in goal, or right-back, because you just want to do your best for him. That psychological effect was unbelievable.

"He could get the best from me, and that is what I do now. That lesson counts a lot and I want to thank him for it."

After Hoddle, Saints had a short spell with Stuart Gray in charge, before Gordon Strachan took over.

Under the Scot, Pahars had to adapt to being afforded less freedom than he had enjoyed before.

"He was a completely different person," he said of Strachan. "Glenn Hoddle was more gentle than him. Strachan was a bit more tough. Pre-season was really hard.

"We played good football with him, but also with him I started to feel more that I couldn't play like I wanted to. It was very, very structured: You have to do this, this and this. The rest you don't do.

"I'm not like this. I need to be free to play football.

"But tactically we were very good with Strachan and he had really good preparation of the team. We were like machines under him, it was like a good machine.

"With Hoddle it was more on the creativity of the players, rather than structure and basics, and that's why I rate Hoddle one of the best managers I have played under."

During Strachan's time in charge, Pahars' career began to be blighted by injury. He would often miss long periods of time and his appearances, when they did arrive, always felt too fleeting. Injury also cost him a chance to be part of the run to the 2003 FA Cup final.

But Pahars, right, insists he was grateful to Strachan for his support throughout that time.

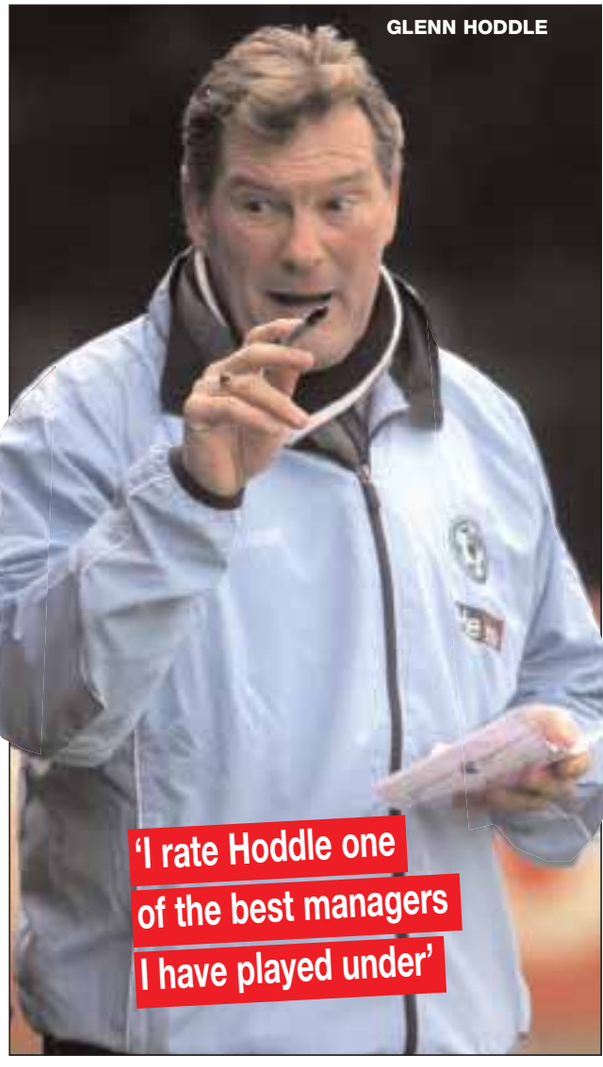
"I started to get injuries under Strachan. But he also praised me and gave me the chance to play," he said.

"I remember being out injured for one year almost. I didn't play for a long time. I had problems with my groin, and I had an operation.

"I missed the whole of pre-season. I didn't train or travel for the pre-season tour. Then it was one week before the opening game, against Middlesbrough, and I had just one week of training. After the last training session he came to me and said 'Are you ready to play?'

DAVE JONES

'Without him I don't know where I will be, so I will always remember him'



GLENN HODDLE

'I rate Hoddle one of the best managers I have played under'

"I said 'I can play, but do you think I'm ready?'

"He said 'Watching you training, I can't not put you in the team. You're looking better than someone who made the whole pre-season. I can't be an enemy to myself, I have to put you in.' So that said to me that he rates me."

But Pahars was becoming increasingly frustrated by the toll the injuries were taking.

"I never could get back to what I wanted," he said.

He did, however, manage to make it back for a particularly important Premier League fixture in December 2003, at home to Pompey.

As if he wasn't already popular enough with the Saints fans, he cemented his status when he jinked inside two defenders and whipped a glorious curling effort from 20 yards into the far bottom corner, as the home side romped to a 3-0 win over their bitter rivals.

"I came back from a long injury and I had been away for one year almost," said Pahars. "That goal meant a lot to me and for the fans especially, knowing the relationship between Portsmouth and Southampton.

"Obviously, it didn't affect us that much as players or coaches, but you want to make the fans happy."

There wasn't much to be happy about for Pahars after that, however. Injuries would continue to haunt him – "it was a time of great depression for me" – Strachan would leave, and the club would spiral towards relegation, with the Latvian ace little more than a helpless bystander.

After Paul Sturrock and Steve Wigley's brief reigns, the Saints ship eventually appeared to steady when George Burley was appointed late in 2005.

For Pahars, though, Burley's

Saints Spotlight

I'VE PLAYED UNDER

GORDON STRACHAN

'We were like machines under him'

GEORGE BURLEY

'I didn't have any relationship with him'

arrival was no good thing.

"I didn't have any relationship with him," he said. "It was difficult to explain for me. I was never thinking he was thinking about the team or the players or the town.

"I came to him at the end and was asking him 'What's happening? My contract is finishing.'

"He didn't tell me anything right to the end. I said to him 'Listen, Southampton to me is everything. I have problems, but I'm determined. I want to come back, I want to be here, this is my town, I want to finish my career here.'

"But what could I do? He was the boss and he told me 'No.'

PASSION PLAY: Marian Pahars tries to make a point with the referee.

"I didn't say anything. I didn't shake his hand, I just left the room."

And so, on April 30, 2006, following a 2-0 home win over Leicester, and after 156 appearances and 45 goals, Pahars' career at Saints came to an end.

As the players embarked on their traditional end-of-season lap round the pitch, a lone figure trailed behind them. It was a devastated Pahars, who wanted to make sure he didn't depart before he made it clear what the fans meant to him.

Holding back the tears, he wandered slowly around, tapping his hand to his heart, occasionally looking solemnly at the pitch, and waving a sad goodbye to the supporters.

"That happened naturally," he said. "Nobody offered me to do this, nobody offered me to make a lap. I wasn't even in the squad for the game. I was in my suit, just watching with all the other players in the stand.

"Nobody from the coaching staff said 'Marian, you can come down and do this.' That wasn't right for me. I'm leaving, and I wanted to say goodbye to the fans, and this is what I did. I did all this for them.

"I had to do it on my own, so I went to the field and waited until everyone had finished, then I went on myself. I knew I had to do it.

"It was a very, very special moment.

"I felt very bad when I knew the decision about myself. By the final lap I already knew everything. I had already had time to cry and understand that my time was finished, so I just wanted to go and say thank you to the people in the stands.

"I appreciated what they did for me, because without the fans I would never be what I was. They helped me from the first day I arrived, they helped me on the field, and they didn't give that to everyone.

"I learned that very well in England. The fans can help you, or they can destroy you. It's why I played for them. I gave everything, because they really helped me from the beginning.

"It's why I rate Southampton fans in England the best by far. I saw all the others, but I saw how they reacted when their team was playing bad. At Southampton that never happened, especially to me.

"I never had a bad word or any booing from them, even when I played so badly."

Pahars was offered a pay-as-you-play deal at Coventry, but when Cypriot side Anorthosis Famagusta came in for him he decided to go there.

"I decided it was too difficult to stay in England and be away from Southampton with someone else," said Pahars, who divorced from his wife as he left, saying the strains of the injury-ravaged spell towards the end of his Saints career had taken its toll on his family.

Pahars would play in Cyprus for 18 months, but it was never the same for him.

"The people were good, very friendly and it was a nice atmosphere," he said.

Continued on page 10

FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, July 22

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Bideford v Plymouth, Nagoya Grampus Eight v Arsenal, Puskas FC Academy v West Brom, Stocksbridge P S v Sheff Utd, Alfreton Town v Sheff Utd.

Tuesday, July 23

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Second qualifying round second leg: Celtic v Cliftonville, Dinamo Zagreb v CS Fola Esch, EB Streymur v Dinamo Tbilisi, FC Daugava v IF Elfsborg, FH Hafnarfjordur v FK Ekranas, Maccabi Tel-Aviv v Gyor, Molde v Sligo, Nomme Kalju v HJK Helsinki, Shakhtyor Karaganda v BATE, Skenderbeu v Neftchi, Sutjeska v FC Sheriff, Vardar v Steaua Bucuresti, Zeljeznicar Sarajevo v Plzen.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Accrington Stanley v Oldham, Arbroath v Inverness CT, Bradford P A v FC Halifax, Burton Albion v Derby, Chesterfield v Wolverhampton, Colchester v Ipswich, Dag & Red v Charlton, Dartford v Southend, Grimsby v Bradford, Hamburg v West Ham, Luton v Aston Villa, Macclesfield v Rochdale, Peterhead v Aberdeen, Preston v Blackburn, Rotherham v Middlesbrough, Rushall Olympic v Tamworth, Shrewsbury v Birmingham, Staines Town v Aldershot, Sutton Utd v Chelsea XI, Tranmere v Burnley, Walsall v Nottm Forest, Weston-S-Mare v Torquay, Yokohama F. Marinos v Man Utd.

Wednesday, July 24

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Second qualifying round second leg: Legia Warsaw v The New Saints FC, Ludogorets v Slovan Bratislava, Maribor v Birkirkara, Partizan Belgrade v Shirak.

BARCLAYS ASIA TROPHY

Semi-finals: Tottenham v Sunderland (Hong Kong Stadium), South China v Man City (Hong Kong Stadium).

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Bayern Munich v Barcelona, Blyth Spartans v Gateshead, Bristol City v Reading, Forest Green v Cardiff, Melbourne Victory v Liverpool, Morecambe v Wigan, Stocksbridge P S v Rotherham, Wick Academy v Inverness CT, York v Leicester.

Thursday, July 25

EUROPA LEAGUE

Second qualifying round second leg: AS Trencin v IFK Goteborg, AaB v Dila Gori, Aktobe v Hodd, BK Hacken v Sparta Prague, Botev Plovdiv v Zrinjski Mostar, Budapest Honved v Vojvodina, Chikhura Sachkhere v FC Thun, Debrecen v Stromsgodset, Derry City v Trabzonspor, FC Dacia v Chornomorets, FC Milsami v Shakhter, FC Utrecht v FC 03 Differdange, FK Sarajevo v FK Kukesi, FK Senica v Mladost Podgorica, FK Turnovo v Hajduk Split, Gefle IF v Anorthosis Famagusta, Hapoel Tel-Aviv v Beroe, Hibernian v Malmo FF, IBV Vestmannaeyjar v Crvena Zvez, Inter Baku v Tromso, Jeunesse Esch v FK Ventspils, Khazar Lenkoran v Maccabi Haifa, Lech Poznan v FC Honka, Liberec v Skonto FC, Linfield v Skoda Xanthi, Lokomotiva Zagreb v Dinamo Minsk, MSK Zilina v Olimpija Ljubljana, Minsk v Valletta, Omonia Nicosia v FC Astra Giurgi, Pandurii Targu-Jiu v Levadia Tal, Piast Gliwice v FK Qarabag, Prestatyn Town v Rijeka, Pyunik v VMFD Zalgiris, Rubin Kazan v FK Jagodina, Rudar Pljevlja v Slask Wroclaw, SK Sturm Graz v Breidablik, Siroki Brijeg v Irtysh, St Johnstone v Rosenborg, Standard Liege v KR Reykjavik, Vikingur v Petrolul Ploiesti.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Abbey Hey v Hyde, Barnsley v Bordeaux, Bayern Munich v Barcelona, Indonesia All Stars v Chelsea, Weston-S-Mare v Exeter.

Friday, July 26

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Aberdeen v FC Twente, Burton Albion v Walsall, Cerezo Osaka v Man Utd, Urawa Red Diamonds v Arsenal, Motherwell v Nottm Forest.

Saturday, July 27

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Alfreton Town v Port Vale, Altrincham v FC Halifax, Barnet v Milton Keynes Dons, Basingstoke v Aldershot, Birmingham v Hull, Blackburn v Everton, Bradford v Doncaster, Burnley v Sparta Rotterdam, Buxton v Macclesfield, Celtic v Borussia M'gladbach, Chester FC v Bolton, Chesterfield v Sheff Wed, Derby v West Brom, Frickley v Barnsley XI, Gateshead v Darlington, Hereford v Torquay, Leiston v Braintree Town, Luton v Dag & Red, Middlesbrough v Bordeaux, Oldham v Huddersfield, Plymouth v Yeovil, Reading v Swansea, Rochdale v Preston, Rotherham v Barnsley, Southport v Fleetwood Town, Stalybridge v Hyde, Sutton Utd v Cambridge Utd, Tamworth v Stoke U21, Tonbridge Angels v Dartford, Woking v Gillingham, Wolverhampton v Real Betis, Wrexham v Tranmere, York v Sheff Utd.

Back in the big time

from page 9

"But I didn't enjoy my football. I didn't know how to live after I left Southampton. I stopped my football in Southampton really."

By the time he was released in January 2008, he had a girlfriend who was pregnant. Despite offers to go to China or Australia, they both wanted to move back home. Skonto gave him the chance, offering him a deal as a player, but also a chance to start his coaching badges.

"I stopped playing in 2009, then, in 2010, Aleksandrs Starkovs (the Skonto manager) came to me and offered me to be his assistant, and I agreed immediately," said Pahars.

"After a year, he moved to Azerbaijan and a big club there (FK Baku), and they offered me to become the head coach.

"It was obviously my first proper club and I enjoyed every minute.

"When I was his assistant I was thinking 'Is this for me or not?' but as soon as I got on the pitch and talked to the players I understood this is my job and this is what I want to do for the rest of my life.

"The league here is very small, and there are no real crowds. We develop young players and try to get them abroad.

"That was enjoyable times and we created a good team. The last few years of my football career I didn't enjoy football, so this was the time I started to enjoy it again."

Pahars would spend two seasons in charge of Skonto, winning the league and cup in that time, but financial problems at the club made life difficult and it was eventually agreed that, after being offered the position of head coach for the

under-21 national team, that he would leave.

Pahars began his work with the Latvian Football Federation at the start of this year.

"At the beginning I didn't enjoy it too much, because obviously you only can bring the team together for five days before the game. Then you create the atmosphere, the spirit and the team, and then they're gone," he said.

"When they come back, you have to do it from the beginning again, because the players are all in different conditions and different mentality.

"It's not every day you are working on the field. You are sitting in the office a lot. But now I really enjoy it. It's a really good organisation."

Pahars was made head coach of the senior team earlier this month, after the departure of Starkovs from the role.

"Clearly, this is an important day in my career," he said on taking over. "To be the team's main coach is a great honour for me and even more responsibility."

As for what his dreams as a manager are, Pahars is coy when it comes to specifics. But he is determined to become as good a coach as possible.

"When you are playing for small clubs you want to achieve the big clubs. I think I'm still a player a little bit in that case. I want to achieve the best, whether it is as a coach or a player," he said.

"I want to win, I want to get success, I want to come to bigger clubs. Maybe I want to come to England one day – I won't tell you!

"As a player it took me many years. It is the same here. I know my qualities, I know what I can be in the future, but I have to take time before I achieve something like this.

"I know my qualities, but I also know my disadvantages, which I have to improve."

If he is half as good a manager as he was a player, then Marian Pahars should do just fine.

ON TOUR: Saints' bench during their first friendly of pre season at Spanish club Llagostera on Wednesday night.

SPIRIT OF SAINTS

THERE'S something interesting going on at Southampton FC.

With modern football there is usually a plethora of propaganda that emanates from a club, usually stock footage from the PR department that toes the company line and presents a resolute image for the forthcoming season.

I spent many years interviewing footballers and can tell you from experience it's easier to get blood from a stone than it is to get a halfway controversial quote from a footballer.

Modern day players are well schooled in the media and more often than not you'll get your "Taking one game at time" and "I was pleased with the goals, but it was all about the team performance today. Just pleased to get the three points and push on to the next game," when you interview anyone.

With my natural cynicism in mind, I was pleasantly pleased to see footage of the team in Spain floating around social media sites this week.

Saints were taking part in a team building exercise which involved the usual embarrassing role-playing guff.

But this time it involved such oddities as fire walking to bond the team together.

You can usually spot photo opportunities a mile off but video coverage of the event made it a little bit harder to fake a sense of unity. The team seem to genuinely get on.

Highlight of the film footage had to be Kelvin Davis stomping down the line of hot coals singing "When the Saints go marching in."

It leads you to the inescapable conclusion that Saints are indeed, if you excuse the SFC jargon, moving forward as one.

A side that started with trepidation last season ended it with no small amount of swagger having given the top sides in the Premier League a real test.

Could this be our season?

Who's laughing now?

MUCH has been said this week of the scandalous vandalism of Saints' Academy builders by a couple of nasty Pompey fans.

I must be in a minority of one in so much as I really couldn't give a stuff if a couple of oiks plant a shirt behind a wall, under the pitch or anywhere they want… I really don't care.

The fact that they are parading this "achievement" like it's some sort of massive one up on Saints is, quite frankly, pitiful.

I've never quite "got" the whole burying a shirt under the pitch thing.

Symbolically, surely it means you're forever beneath us?

Bury the shirt under the concrete on the stands of St Mary's?

You're forever being walked over by the fans.

I just don't get the comedy of it… and I get the comedy value of Pompey.

The fact that this "act of vandalism" occurred on a site that Pompey can only dream off, seems to be lost on them.

The fact that they are now unemployed and planted a shirt sponsored by Jobsite isn't lost on me.

Just who is laughing now? Not them, I guess…

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

Saints will surprise a lot of teams this year, but I remember saying that Jan Poortvliet's young side would turn heads in the Championship after seeing them rip Birmingham apart, and we all know how that ended up.

It leads us to the inevitable question, just how will we do this season?

Much has been made of our supposed transfer targets, and much will be made of the ones we don't get. Are Saints aiming too high?

Every successful journey starts with one step.

Saints' first step was promotion back to the Premier League; the second was staying there.

You cannot underestimate that achievement. Survival in that first season is about as tough a task as you can get in English football.

The second season is obviously not as tough but can be as big as pitfall if you don't aim to improve.

So many teams over the years have been relegated in year two by resting on their laurels whilst the newly-promoted teams arrive full of beans and the teams just above them move forward.

Saints face a dilemma.

On one hand, they want the sort of talent that will propel them into the top ten and potentially into Europe.

On the other hand, those sorts of players are looking to sign for teams that are already there.

It takes strength of conviction and financial clout to get those players to subscribe to your vision, and the very fact that Saints are looking at these sorts of players shows just how high the club is aiming this season.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's EXCLUSIVE column on all things football

Stalemate in summer transfer skirmishes

ON THE MOVE: Could ex-Saint Gareth Bale be destined for a switch to Old Trafford?

IT has been a strange old transfer window, with not much in the way of big-name signings so far.

It is understandable that Chelsea and both the Manchester clubs have approached with caution, given they recently appointed managers who need to assess their squads first, before splashing the cash on any new recruits.

What has surprised me, however, is the lack of activity at the Emirates Stadium, where there is growing discontent over the club's inability to challenge for top honours.

This summer was meant to be a statement of intent. After years spent laying low and paying off the huge costs of relocating to a 60,000-seat stadium, Arsenal were finally supposed to be able to flex their new financial muscle. It hasn't been the case.

While some of Europe's biggest clubs got their business done early – in Bayern Munich's case, before the season even finished – Arsenal are yet to get out of the starting blocks, and it is beginning to look all too familiar.

Back in 2011, Arsène Wenger was forced to deviate from his normal conservative approach after a catastrophic opening to the season that included an 8-2 loss at Old Trafford.

In the aftermath of that, his knee-jerk reaction was to buy a host of players, including the cumbersome Per Mertesacker and the liability that was André Santos.

To put it frankly, they were panic buys, and a man as meticulous as Wenger should know better. Hindsight is always 20-20, but it has been Wenger's inability to learn from his mistakes that has stained his legacy somewhat at the club in recent seasons.

If reports are to be believed, he has been given close on £70m to strengthen his squad with the quality required to challenge for the title.

With their closest rivals all adapting to a new regime, the stars could not have aligned any better for the Gunners.

Yet still we wait.

The club have made one signing thus far, in Yaya Sanogo, but, as impressive as the young French striker was at the Under-20 World Cup, he is not going to fire them to the Premier League title.

The risk is that, once he does become the player who will do just that, he will move onto another club that is more likely to win the league than just scrap for the Champions League places.

While many may point to Arsenal's reported interest in Gonzalo Higuaín and Luis Suárez as signals of intent, it is interesting to note that neither club has received an offer from Arsenal, or any other club for that matter.

While both would be great signings, they remain rumours for now, with nothing concrete to go on.

But it is silly season after all, and believing everything you read might have you convinced that your side will be a veritable world XI by the time the Premier League rolls around.

So, while Arsenal fans sit and wait for that spectacular signing, Manchester United's chief executive Ed Woodward has left their pre-season tour to conduct some imminent business.

Could that be for Gareth Bale, the Tottenham player and Welsh international?

A reported £60m offer is being made, if we are to believe the stories.

Elsewhere, Manchester City look set to complete the signing of Álvaro Negredo, while Chelsea have lodged a formal offer for Wayne Rooney. And still Wenger sits and plots.

Let's hope for Arsenal's sake that he doesn't wait until midnight on deadline day to get the right deal, which almost always never proves to be the case – just ask Chelsea and Fernando Torres.

Whether or not it is José Mourinho's first foray into the mind games, Chelsea have officially made a bid for unsettled United striker Rooney.

There have been a number of comments coming out of Chelsea in recent weeks, with Eden Hazard and David Luiz both claiming that Rooney would be a great signing for the London club.

The bid from the Blues is the clearest statement of intent yet, with Mourinho stating: "Chelsea is interested in this player, made a bid and what we did we did officially."

Meanwhile, over at Old Trafford, David Moyes enjoyed a baptism of fire, suffering a shock loss in his first match in charge, as well as losing Rooney to a hamstring injury that will see him miss all of pre-season.

This coming days after the Scotsman claimed that Rooney, pictured left, was in his best shape for years.

It was his comments about his intention to use the England frontman as a squad player that really seem to have irked Rooney's camp.

Wayne has always been a player who needs to play to remain in shape and, in a World Cup year, the last thing he needs is to be warming the bench while a 30-year-old Robin van Persie leads the line for the Red Devils.

While Rooney was far from his best last season, this is a player who is nearing his prime and would remain a major coup for Chelsea, coming as he does from a major rival.

Of course, I wouldn't rule out the possibility of Mourinho using Rooney as a pawn with which to launch his first attack on Moyes' managerial reign.

It will be interesting to see what colour he wears when these two teams meet on August 26 at Old Trafford. Either way, it is going to be one hell of a match.

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You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

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If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

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Saints Spotlight

ALMOST 30 YEARS SINCE SAINTS' LEAGUE BEST

BEST LEAGUE SEASON EVER: Danny Wallace celebrates a goal against Coventry.

THE coming 2013/14 season marks the 30th anniversary of Saints achieving their highest ever league finish.

As difficult as it might be for some younger supporters to take in, the club finished runners-up in the old First Division in 1983/84.

Saints ended the campaign just three points behind champions Liverpool, who also lifted the European Cup and the League Cup under Joe Fagan that term.

Lawrie McMenemy's side also reached the semi finals of the FA Cup in what remains one of the finest – if not the best – season in the club's entire history.

But the football landscape back then, in the days of Margaret Thatcher's government and the start of the Miners' Strike, was very different to today.

Back in 1983/84, only 19 foreign players appeared in the First Division.

Two of them were at The Dell – Yugoslavian pair Ivan Golac and Ivan Katalinic.

Adam Leitch
adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk
CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

Last season, Wigan used 19 foreign players alone in the Premier League.

Saints used 10 overseas players in league action, out of 25 in all – the lowest percentage of foreign stars in the top flight.

In 1983/84 McMemeny used only 21 players in finishing runners-up – and seven of them made less than 10 starts.

Another startling difference between then and now is the size of the crowds watching a far more cosmopolitan league these days.

Back in 1983/84 only two clubs – Manchester United and Liverpool – averaged over 30,000.

Saints' average crowd last season was almost the same as Liverpool managed 29 years earlier.

Of the 22 clubs in the top flight in 1983/84, 13 were in the Premier League last season – and every single one of them had a higher average crowd compared to 1983/84.

In Manchester United's case, their crowds were over 30,000 higher.

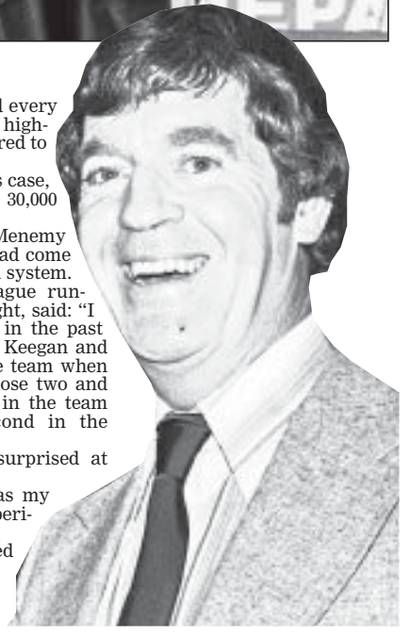
Of the 21 players McMenemy used in 1983/84, many had come through the club's youth system.

Talking about his league runners-up, McMenemy, right, said: "I have listened to people in the past and said to them Kevin Keegan and Alan Ball weren't in the team when we won the Cup and those two and Mick Channon weren't in the team when we finished second in the league.

"They are normally surprised at that.

"The fact was, this was my fifth team in a 12 year period.

"The first one I inherited



CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Did You Know?

How the top four divisions looked in the season Saints finished second in the top flight ..

Division One 1983-1984

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	42	22	14	6	73	32	80
SAINTS	**42**	**22**	**11**	**9**	**66**	**38**	**77**
Nottingham Forest	42	22	8	12	76	45	74
Manchester United	42	20	14	8	71	41	74
QPR	42	22	7	13	67	37	73
Arsenal	42	18	9	15	74	60	63
Everton	42	16	14	12	44	42	62
Tottenham Hotspur	42	17	10	15	64	65	61
West Ham United	42	17	9	16	60	55	60
Aston Villa	42	17	9	16	59	61	60
Watford	42	16	9	17	68	77	57
Ipswich Town	42	15	8	19	55	57	53
Sunderland	42	13	13	16	42	53	52
Norwich City	42	12	15	15	48	49	51
Leicester City	42	13	12	17	65	68	51
Luton Town	42	14	9	19	53	66	51
WBA	42	14	9	19	48	62	51
Stoke City	42	13	11	18	44	63	50
Coventry City	42	13	11	18	57	77	50
Birmingham City	42	12	12	18	39	50	48
Notts County	42	10	11	21	50	72	41
Wolves	42	6	11	25	27	80	29

Division Two 1983-1984

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	42	25	13	4	90	40	88
Sheffield Wednesday	42	26	10	6	72	34	88
Newcastle United	42	24	8	10	85	53	80
Manchester City	42	20	10	12	66	48	70
Grimsby Town	42	19	13	10	60	47	70
Blackburn Rovers	42	17	16	9	57	46	67
Carlisle United	42	16	16	10	48	41	64
Shrewsbury Town	42	17	10	15	49	53	61
Brighton and Hove A	42	17	9	16	69	60	60
Leeds United	42	16	12	14	55	56	60
Fulham	42	15	12	15	60	53	57
Huddersfield Town	42	14	15	13	56	49	57
Charlton Athletic	42	16	9	17	53	64	57
Barnsley	42	15	7	20	57	53	52
Cardiff City	42	15	6	21	53	66	51
Portsmouth	42	14	7	21	73	64	49
Middlesbrough	42	12	13	17	41	47	49
Crystal Palace	42	12	11	19	42	52	47
Oldham Athletic	42	13	8	21	47	73	47
Derby County	42	11	9	22	36	72	42
Swansea City	42	7	8	27	36	85	29
Cambridge United	42	4	12	26	28	77	24

Division Three 1983-1984

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford United	46	28	11	7	91	50	95
Wimbledon	46	26	9	11	97	76	87
Sheffield United	46	24	11	11	86	53	83
Hull City	46	23	14	9	71	38	83
Bristol Rovers	46	22	13	11	68	54	79
Walsall	46	22	9	15	68	61	75
Bradford City	46	20	11	15	73	65	71
Gillingham	46	20	10	16	74	69	70
Millwall	46	18	13	15	71	65	67
Bolton Wanderers	46	18	10	18	56	60	64
Leyton Orient	46	18	9	19	71	81	63
Burnley	46	16	14	16	76	61	62
Newport County	46	16	14	16	58	75	62
Lincoln City	46	17	10	19	59	62	61
Wigan Athletic	46	16	13	17	46	56	61
Preston North End	46	15	11	20	66	66	56
Bournemouth	46	16	7	23	63	73	55
Rotherham United	46	15	9	22	57	64	54
Plymouth Argyle	46	13	12	21	56	62	51
Brentford	46	11	16	19	69	79	49
Scunthorpe United	46	9	19	18	54	73	46
Southend United	46	10	14	22	55	76	44
Port Vale	46	11	10	25	51	83	43
Exeter City	46	6	15	25	50	84	33

Division Four 1983-1984

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
York City	46	31	8	7	96	39	101
Doncaster Rovers	46	24	13	9	82	54	85
Reading	46	22	16	8	84	56	82
Bristol City	46	24	10	12	70	44	82
Aldershot	46	22	9	15	76	69	75
Blackpool	46	21	9	16	70	52	72
Peterborough United	46	18	14	14	72	48	68
Colchester United	46	17	16	13	69	53	67
Torquay United	46	18	13	15	59	64	67
Tranmere Rovers	46	17	15	14	53	53	66
Hereford United	46	16	15	15	54	53	63
Stockport County	46	17	11	18	60	64	62
Chesterfield	46	15	15	16	59	61	60
Darlington	46	17	8	21	49	50	59
Bury	46	15	14	17	61	64	59
Crewe Alexandra	46	16	11	19	56	67	59
Swindon Town	46	15	13	18	58	56	58
Northampton Town	46	13	14	19	53	78	53
Mansfield Town	46	13	13	20	66	70	52
Wrexham	46	11	15	20	59	74	48
Halifax Town	46	12	12	22	55	89	48
Rochdale	46	11	13	22	52	80	46
Hartlepool United	46	10	10	26	47	85	40
Chester City	46	7	13	26	45	82	34

Saints Spotlight

Did You Know?

Top scorers - First Division, 1983/84

Arsenal: Tony Woodcock 21
Aston Villa: Peter Withe 16
Birmingham: Mick Harford 8
Coventry: Terry Gibson 17
Everton: Adrian Heath 12
Ipswich: Eric Gates 13
Leicester: Gary Lineker 22
Liverpool: Ian Rush 32
Luton: Paul Walsh 11
Man Utd: Frank Stapleton 13
Norwich: John Deehan 15
Notts Forest: Garry Birtles 15
Notts County: Trevor Christie 19
QPR: Clive Allen 14
SAINTS: STEVE MORAN 21
Stoke: Paul Maguire 9
Sunderland: Colin West 9
Tottenham: Steve Archibald 21
Watford: Mo Johnston 20
West Brom: Garry Thompson 13
West Ham: Tony Cottee 15
Wolves: Wayne Clarke 6

Saints ace Steve Moran was the joint third top scorer in the top flight, with only legends Ian Rush and Gary Lineker above him.

1 Ian Rush, Liverpool 32
2 Gary Lineker, Leicester 22
=3 Steve Archibald, Tottenham 21
=3 Steve Moran, Southampton 21
=3 Tony Woodcock, Arsenal 21
6 Mo Johnston, Watford 20
=7 Trevor Christie, Notts Co 19
=7 Paul Mariner, Arsenal 19
9 Terry Gibson, Coventry 17
10 Peter Withe, AstonVilla 16

Former Saint Kevin Keegan was second top scorer in the Second Division in what was his final season as a player.

1 Kerry Dixon, Chelsea 28
2 Kevin Keegan, Newcastle 27
3 Mark Hateley, Portsmouth 22
4 Gordon Davies, Fulham 21
=5 Peter Beardsley, Newcastle 20
=5Mike Quinn, Oldham 20
7 Simon Garner, Blackburn 19
8 Chris Waddle, Newcastle 18
= 9 Malcolm Poskett, Carlisle 17
=9 Imre Varadi, Sheffield W 17

Alan Cork – dad of current Saints midfielder Jack – was second top marksman in the Third Division as Wimbledon won promotion.

1 Keith Edwards, Sheffield U 33
2 Alan Cork, Wimbledon 28
3 John Aldridge, Oxford 24
4 John Hawley, Bradford 22
5 Colin Morris, Sheffield U 20
=6 Steve Biggins, Oxford 19
=6 Tony Caldwell, Bolton 19
= 8 Steve Cammack, Scunthorpe 18
=8 Billy Hamilton, Burnley 18
=8 Francis Joseph, Brentford 18

Former Weymouth and Bashley manager Trevor Senior was the Football League's top scorer in 1983/84 with 36 Fourth Division goals for Reading.

1 Trevor Senior, Reading 36
2 John Byrne, York 27
3 Tony Adcock, Colchester 26
4 Keith Walwyn, York 25
5 Les Lawrence, Aldershot 23
6 Dave Caldwell, Mansfield 21
7 Dale Banton, Aldershot 19
David Gregory, Wrexham 19
9 Trevor Morgan, Bristol City 18
=10 Craig Madden, Bury 17
=10 Alan Mayes, Swindon 17
=10 Stuart Phillips, Hereford 17

Saints second

SO how did Saints finish runners-up in the top flight in 1983/84. Matt Grainger looks back through the archives to that phenomenal record-breaking season ...

August 27, 1983
Nottingham Forest 0 Saints 1
Att: 14,626

Lawrie McMenemy handed league debuts to Ken Armstrong and Frank Worthington, while Danny Wallace scored the winner in the 66th minute.

August 29, 1983
Saints 0 QPR 0
Att: 19,522

September 3, 1983
Saints 1 Arsenal 0
Att: 19,377

Ian Baird, making his first appearance of the season, stabbed home from close range in the 72nd minute.

September 6, 1983
Liverpool 1 Saints 1
Att: 26,331

Full back Mick Mills scored an 84th minute leveller for Saints at the league champions, his low free-kick struck from 25 yards.

Ian Rush had put the hosts ahead just after the hour mark.

September 10, 1983
Sunderland 0 Saints 2
Att: 12,716

Steve Moran scored his first goals of the season, netting in the 22nd and 67th minutes at Roker Park.

September 17, 1983
Saints 3 Manchester United 0
Att: 20,674

The rout of Ron Atkinson's United started in the third minute when Steve Williams netted.

The midfielder scored again 13 minutes later and David Armstrong finished the scoring with a header 11 minutes from time.

Williams was to score just once more all season.

September 24, 1983
Aston Villa 1 Saints 0
Att: 21,209

Frank Worthington was sent off for retaliation in the 57th minute, with Peter Withe having scored what proved to be the winner in the first half.

October 1, 1983
Saints 1 Wolves 0
Att: 16,589

Frank Worthington bundled in an 82nd minute winner against a Wolves side who were to finish bottom of the table.

October 22, 1983
Luton 3 Saints 1
Att: 12,389

Trevor Aylott scored twice early on and the hosts also missed a first half penalty through David Moss.

Brian Stein made it 3-0 in the second period before David Armstrong replied.

October 29, 1983
Saints 3 Ipswich 2
Att: 18,515

Steve Moran scored a last-gasp winner in an entertaining encouner. Steve Williams had opened the scoring in the fourth minute, before Paul Mariner struck twice to give the visitors the lead. Nick Holmes levelled just before the hour mark.

November 5, 1983
Norwich 1 Saints 0
Att: 14,303

November 12, 1983
Saints 1 West Brom 0
Att: 16,450

Steve Moran struck the only goal from the penalty spot in the 19th minute.

November 19, 1983
Saints 0 Notts County 2
Att: 15,009

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Terraces and fences at Birmingham City as Mick Mills attacks.

GOING FOR GOAL: Steve Moran shoots during Saints' trip to Luton Town.

ON THE BALL: Steve Moran against Manchester United.

SPORTS PINK - BEST FOR SAINTS NOSTALGIA

Saints Spotlight

CLOSE CALL: Steve Moran fires just wide as Saints lose at Everton in March 1984.

GETTING A CROSS IN: Steve Moran in action against Aston Villa.

best in 83/84

Saints stumbled to a shock defeat against a Magpies side who would end the season relegated.

After ex-Saints loanee Justin Fashanu had put Notts ahead, Steve Moran missed a penalty in the 36th minute.

Trevor Christie completed victory late on.

November 26, 1983
Coventry 0 Saints 0
Att: 11,579

Coventry's Steve Hunt was sent off in the 77th minute after head butting Saints skipper Steve Williams.

November 30, 1983
Leicester 2 Saints 1
Att: 14,181

Mark Dennis made a losing debut for Saints at Filbert Street. Smith and Gary Lineker put the hosts in command before Frank Worthington replied in the 83rd minute.

BLOCKED: Steve Moran shoots against QPR.

December 3
Saints 3 Stoke 1
Att: 15,301

On Alan Curtis' debut, Saints fell behind early on to a goal from Curtis' former Swansea colleague Robbie James.

Danny Wallace volleyed home in the 35th minute to equalise, before Dave Armstrong gave Saints a half-time lead.

Mick Mills sealed the game on the hour mark.

December 10, 1983
Spurs 0 Saints 0
Att: 29,711

December 17, 1983
Saints 2 Birmingham 1
Att: 15,248

Saints won courtesy of two own goals.

Noel Blake's header gave Saints the lead and, after a Byron Stevenson leveller, Jim Hagan's error handed the hosts victory.

December 26, 1983
West Ham 0 Saints 1
Att: 22,221

Danny Wallace netted the only goal shortly after the hour mark at Upton Park.

December 27, 1983
Saints 1 Watford 0
Att: 20,759

David Armstrong scored the winner.

December 31, 1983
Arsenal 2 Saints 2
Att: 27,596

Steve Moran grabbed a second half double as Saints came from 0-2 down to snatch a point. David Cork and Peter Nicholas had put the Gunners in command.

January 2, 1984
Saints 2 Aston Villa 2
Att: 18,963

Saints again came from 0-2 down to draw.

Goals from Steve McMahon and Gary Shaw put Villa ahead, with Steve Moran missing a penalty midway through the second half.

Moran reduced the arrears nine minutes from time, and David Armstrong levelled four minutes later.

January 21, 1984
Manchester United 3 Saints 2
Att: 40,371

Steve Moran opened the scoring in the third minute, before the hosts hit back to lead through Bryan Robson and Frank Stapleton.

Moran made it 2-2 before half-time, but Arnold Muhren won it for United on the hour mark.

January 23, 1984
Saints 0 Nottm Forest 1
Att: 17,420

Garry Bitles netted the only goal in the first half.

February 2, 1984
Wolves 0 Saints 1
Att: 9,943

Steve Moran scored in the 63rd minute in front of under 10,000 at Molineux.

Continued on page 18

Saints' highest

From page 15

and we got relegated.

"I was allowed to stay and built a team to try and get us promoted and that was actually the team that won the Cup.

"I realised I had to alter it to get promotion and that was my third team.

"The fourth was a side to keep us up and the fifth one was the side that finished second.

"This team (1983/84) was the proof of a very successful youth policy I had introduced in my first couple of years.

"The point I have made about Sunday morning scouting of local youth football is there to be seen – Baird, Moran, Juryeff, Puckett, Steve Baker all came from the area, while Danny Wallace and Steve Williams came from the London centre I'd set up.

"Others like Mark Wright and Mark Dennis I had spotted myself.

It was a good mixture of young legs, old heads.

"But managers these days wouldn't have got the time I had.

"They have to have instant success and that's why youngsters don't get the experience. Clubs have the money to buy straight off the top shelf and that's what they do."

McMenemy remembers Saints' last game of the season at already relegated Notts County.

Saints had to win or draw to leap two places into second spot, but a loss would keep them fourth.

"The Notts County game was vital and we weren't doing all that well and I think a lot of the players had switched off," McMenemy recalled.

"At half time I had a go, and I had a go at Mick Mills because he had asked what the fuss was.

"I said 'it might be alright for you as you've achieved things with Ipswich already but I want to finish as high as we can'.

" I knew if we won we'd finish second. The second half was a transformation and we won and finished second."

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

	1983/84	2012/13	+ OR -
Arsenal	28,116	60,079	+31,963 (+113.7%)
Aston Villa	21,370	35,059	+13,689 (+64.1)
Birmingham	14,106	16,702	+2,596 (+18.4)
Coventry	12,572	10948	-1,624 (-12.9)
Everton	19,343	36,355	+17,012 (+87.9)
Ipswich	17,464	17,526	+62 (+0.4)
Leicester	14,923	22,054	+7,131 (+47.8)
Liverpool	31,974	44,748	+12,774 (+40)
Luton	11,938	5,882	-6,056 (-50.7)
Man Utd	42,534	75,529	+32,995 (+77.6)
Norwich	15,659	26,671	+11,012 (+70.3)
Notts Forest	17,698	23,082	+5,384 (+30.4)
Notts County	9,463	5,521	-3,942 (-41.7)
QPR	15,370	17,779	+2,409 (+15.7)
SAINTS	**18,088**	**30,873**	**+12,785 (+70.7)**
Stoke	13,900	26,919	+13,019 (+93.7)
Sunderland	16,180	40,544	+24,364 (+150.6)
Tottenham	28,701	36,066	+7,365 (+25.7)
Watford	16,510	13,453	-3,057 (-18.5)
West Brom	14,568	25,359	+10,791 (+74.1)
West Ham	21,386	34,719	+13,333 (+62.3)
Wolves	12,478	21,662	+9,148 (+73.6)

SOUTHERN LEAGUE FIXTURES 2013/14

AFC TOTTON – Premier Division

August		
17	Stourbridge	H
20	Bideford	A
24	Bedford Town	A
26	Bashley	H
31	Chippenham Town	A
SEPTEMBER		
3	Truro City	H
7	St Albans City	H
17	Weymouth	A
21	Cambridge City	A
OCTOBER		
5	Banbury United	H
8	Frome Town	H
12	Corby Town	A
22	Poole Town	A
26	Arlesey Town	H
29	Truro City	A
NOVEMBER		
2	Chippenham Town	H
5	Weymouth	H
9	St Albans City	A
16	Hitchin Town	H
23	Chesham United	A
26	Hemel Hempstead Town	A
30	Biggleswade Town	H
DECEMBER		
7	Redditch United	A
14	Hungerford Town	H
21	St Neots Town	A
26	Bashley	A
28	Bideford	H
JANUARY		
1	Burnham	H
4	Hinckley United	A
11	Hitchin Town	A
18	Chesham United	H
25	Hemel Hempstead Town	H
FEBRUARY		
1	Biggleswade Town	A
8	Redditch United	H
15	Hungerford Town	A
22	St Neots Town	H
MARCH		
1	Banbury United	A
8	Cambridge City	H
15	Frome Town	A
22	Corby Town	H
29	Arlesey Town	A
APRIL		
5	Poole Town	H
12	Stourbridge	A
19	Bedford Town	H
21	Burnham	A
26	Hinckley United	H

BASHLEY – Premier Division

AUGUST		
17	Biggleswade Town	A
20	Truro City	H
24	St Neots Town	H
26	AFC Totton	A
31	Bideford	H
SEPTEMBER		
3	Chesham United	A
7	Corby Town	A
17	Hemel Hempstead Town	H
21	Hinckley United	A
OCTOBER		
5	Arlesey Town	H
8	Weymouth	H
12	St Albans City	A
23	Frome Town	A
26	Banbury United	H
29	Chesham United	H
NOVEMBER		
2	Bideford	A
5	Hemel Hempstead Town	A
9	Corby Town	H
16	Hungerford Town	H
23	Hitchin Town	A
26	Burnham	H
30	Bedford Town	A
DECEMBER		
7	Stourbridge	H
14	Cambridge City	A
21	Chippenham Town	H
26	AFC Totton	H
28	Truro City	A
JANUARY		
1	Poole Town	A
4	Redditch United	H
11	Hungerford Town	A
18	Hithcin Town	H
25	Burnham	A
FEBRUARY		
1	Bedford Town	H
8	Stourbridge	A
15	Cambridge City	H
22	Chippenham Town	A
MARCH		
1	Arlesey Town	A
8	Hinckley United	H
15	Weymouth	A
22	St Albans City	H
29	Banbury United	A
APRIL		
5	Frome Town	H
12	Biggleswade Town	H
19	St Neots Town	A
21	Poole Town	H
26	Redditch United	A

Saints Spotlight

SECOND BEST WAS

From page 17

February 11, 1984
Saints 1 Sunderland 1
Att: 16,968

Steve Moran again scored in the 63rd minute, this time a penalty. Steve Elliott levelled nine minutes from the end.

February 21
Ipswich 0 Saints 3, 1984
Att: 14,934

Three first half goals saw Saints storm to victory ay Portman Road.

Frank Worthington opened the scoring in the first 10 minutes before Steve Moran tucked away Danny Wallace's cross.

Dave Armstrong scored a close range header in the 36th minute.

February 25, 1984
Saints 2 Luton 1
Att: 17,947

First half goals from Mark Wright and David Armstrong gave Saints victory, Mal Donaghy replying late on.

March 3, 1984
Saints 2 Norwich 1
Att: 17,456

David Puckett grabbed an 82nd minute winner after John Deehan had cancelled out David Armstrong's early efforr.

March 16, 1984
Saints 2 Liverpool 0
Att: 19,698

In the first ever live televised league game at The Dell, Danny Wallace scored twice against the eventual champions – the first an overhead kick which won the Goal of the Season award.

March 24, 1984
QPR 4 Saints 0
Att: 15,407

Saints slumped to their heaviest defeat of the season to goals from Steve Wicks, Gary Micklewhite, Clive Allen and Gary Waddock.

March 31, 1984
Everton 1 Saints 0
Att: 20,244

Andy Gray scored five minutes before the break.

April 7, 1984
Saints 2 Leicester 2
Att: 17,455

Steve Moran netted an 87th minute leveller to rescue a point for Saints. Gary Lineker had twice given the Foxes the lead, Danny Wallace having netted the first equaliser.

April 17, 1984
Saints 3 Everton 1
Att: 16,978

Three days after losing an FA Cup semi final to Everton, Saints beat the Toffees thanks to goals from David Armstrong (2) and Steve Moran. The latter also missed a penalty.

Future Saint Kevin Richardson replied for Everton.

April 21, 1984
Saints 2 West Ham 0
Att: 20,846

Nick Holmes and Steve Moran were on target.

April 24, 1984
Watford 1 Saints 1
Att: 16,744

David Armstrong equalised George Reilly's first half opener for the Hornets.

April 28, 1984
Saints 8 Coventry 2

Saints belted six goals in the last 33 minutes to romp to their biggest ever top flight victory.

Att: 16,746

Steve Moran and Danny Wallace both scored hat-tricks, after David Armstrong had opened the scoring on 28 minutes. Frank Worthington also netted with Ashley Grimes and Micky Gynn.

May 5, 1984

GOAL: Birmingham's Noel Blake puts through his own goal, above, while Danny Wallace celebrates one of his hat-trick strikes against Coventry, left.

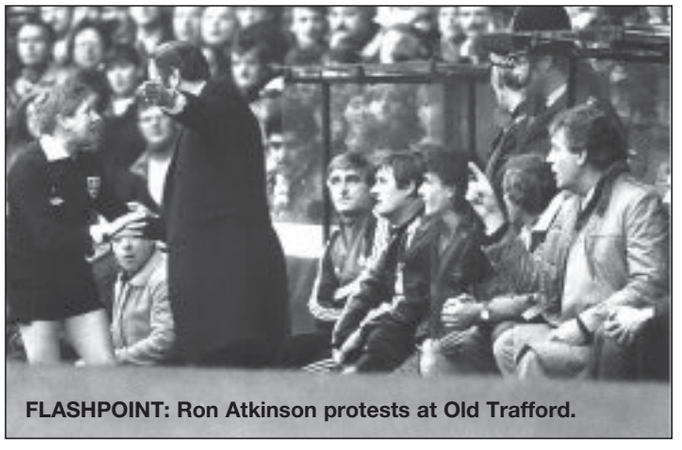
GOING CLOSE: Alan Curtis against Stoke.

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL STARTS ON PAGE 22

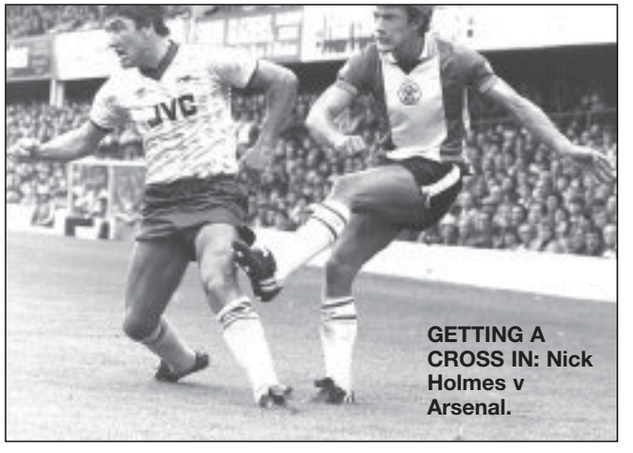
Saints Spotlight

GREAT FOR SAINTS

OOPS: Luton's David Moss skies a penalty well over the bar against Saints at Kenilworth Road.



FLASHPOINT: Ron Atkinson protests at Old Trafford.



GETTING A CROSS IN: Nick Holmes v Arsenal.

Stoke 1 Saints 1
Att: 12,131
Nick Holmes opened the scoring in the 69th minute, but Paul Maguire levelled.

May 7, 1984
Saints 5 Spurs 0
Att: 21,141
Another sensational Dell win for SAints, with David Armstrong and Danny Wallace both scoring twice. Dave Puckett had opened the scoring.

May 12, 1984
Birmingham: 0 Saints 0
Att: 16,445
Saints failed to beat a team who relegated days later.

May 14, 1984
West Brom 0 Saints 2
Att: 10,365
Strikers Dave Puckett and Steve Moran were on target.

May 17, 1984
Notts County 1 Saints 3
Att: 6,035
Steve Moran opened the scoring after just two minutes as Saints claimed the win they needed to jump into runners-up spot.
After Trevor Christie equalised, Moran restored Saints' lead in front of a low crowd at Meadow Lane and David Armstrong completed the club's best league season of all time.

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SOUTHERN LEAGUE FIXTURES 2013/14

POOLE TOWN – Premier Division

AUGUST
17 St Albans City ..... H
20 Chippenham Town ..... A
24 Cambridge City ..... A
26 Weymouth ..... H
31 Biggleswade Town ..... H

SEPTEMBER
4 Frome Town ..... A
7 Hitchin Town ..... A
17 Bideford ..... H
21 Burnham ..... H

OCTOBER
5 Stourbridge ..... A
8 Truro City ..... A
12 Hemel Hempstead ..... H
22 AFC Totton ..... H
26 Bedford Town ..... A
29 Frome Town ..... H

NOVEMBER
2 Biggleswade Town ..... A
5 Bideford ..... A
9 Hitchin Town ..... H
16 St Neots Town ..... H
23 Banbury United ..... A
26 Chesham United ..... A
30 Hungerford Town ..... H

DECEMBER
7 Hinckley United ..... A
14 Redditch United ..... H
21 Corby Town ..... A
26 Weymouth ..... A
28 Chippenham Town ..... H

JANUARY
1 Bashley ..... H
4 Arlesey Town ..... A
11 St Neots Town ..... A
18 Banbury United ..... H
25 Chesham United ..... H

FEBRUARY
1 Hungerford Town ..... A
8 Hinckley United ..... H
15 Redditch United ..... A
22 Corby Town ..... H

MARCH
1 Stourbridge ..... H
8 Burnham ..... A
15 Truro City ..... H
22 Hemel Hempstead Town ..... A
29 Bedford Town ..... H

APRIL
5 AFC Totton ..... A
12 St Albans City ..... A
19 Cambridge City ..... H
21 Bashley ..... A
26 Arlesey Town ..... H

WIMBORNE TOWN – Division One South & West

AUGUST
17 Yate Town ..... A
20 Godalming Town ..... H
24 Evesham United ..... H
26 Bridgwater Town ..... A

SEPTEMBER
3 Thatcham Town ..... A
7 Cinderford Town ..... H
18 Swindon Supermarine ..... A
21 Stratford Town ..... H
28 Bishops Cleeve ..... A

OCTOBER
8 Guilford City ..... H
12 Didcot Town ..... H
26 Cirencester Town ..... A

NOVEMBER
2 Merthyr Town ..... A
9 Mangotsfield United ..... H
16 North Leigh ..... A
23 Clevedon Town ..... H
26 Taunton Town ..... A
30 Paulton Rovers ..... A

DECEMBER
7 Fleet Town ..... H
14 Shortwood United ..... H
21 Godalming Town ..... A
26 Bridgwater Town ..... H
28 Evesham United ..... A

JANUARY
1 Tiverton Town ..... A
4 Yate Town ..... H
11 Stratford Town ..... A
18 Swindon Supermarine ..... H
25 Guildford City ..... A

FEBRUARY
1 Bishops Cleeve ..... H
8 Didcot Town ..... A
15 Cirencester Town ..... H
22 Merthyr Town ..... H

MARCH
1 Mangotsfield United ..... A
8 North Leigh ..... H
15 Clevedon Town ..... A
22 Taunton Town ..... H
29 Paulton Rovers ..... H

APRIL
5 Fleet Town ..... A
12 Thatcham Town ..... H
19 Cinderford Town ..... A
21 Tiverton Town ..... H
26 Shortwood United ..... A

What's next for World C

Simon Walter
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ON TH
ry over

HAVING stared down The Haka before winning the Junior Rugby World Cup, David Sisi was already enjoying an unforgettable summer.

Then he returned to Tottonians RFC, the club where it all began for him, to watch Alex Corbisiero, his partner on the long road back to full fitness last season, help the British & Irish Lions clinch their dramatic series victory in Australia.

Sisi now has one eye on an exciting future as he prepares for the start of a new chapter at Bath RFC, as one of several summer signings made by the Aviva Premiership club.

But he is in reflective mood as the sun beats down on Eling harbour, a hefty punt from his mum's home.

"That's the end of my England age-group career and I'm a little sad I won't be playing with those guys again after three or four years together," says the baby-faced back row star.

"But to end it with the Junior World Cup is huge, to be able to say we're the best Under-20 team in the world is really special.

"I can't say it's particularly sunk in but I've certainly got fond memories of it all."

Sisi remembers the fearsome prelude to England's 33-21 semi-final victory against New Zealand's 'Baby Blacks' almost as well as the game itself.

"Facing The Haka was unbelievable, it was a lifetime ambition so to do it at Under-20 level before a World Cup semi-final was awesome.

"It lived up to everything I thought it would be and more.

"For most of the guys it was our first Haka and we just wanted to take it in.

"It revved us up just as much as them.

"You grab the guy next to you that little bit harder and just want to get stuck into them.

"It's an awesome thing."

Fresh-faced but warrior-like and versatile on the back row, Sisi was also impressive in the final against Wales, inspiring a famous 23-15 win following his introduction at 15-3 down.

His achievement is all the more impressive considering a serious hamstring injury – the muscle was pulled off the bone – meant he missed most of his last season with London Irish, having made 13 appearances in his first two seasons.

"The World Championships was my light at the end of the tunnel," he says.

"Quite unusually in age-group rugby, we had a lot of guys pushing for their club's first teams with Premiership and LV= Cup experience, hugely talented players who you would expect one day to be involved in the senior side and maybe the Lions.

"I'm grateful the management – Ian Peel and Nick Walshe – showed faith in me to take me to France.

"I'd started the last two games of the Six Nations, which we'd won, but credit to them, all the coaching staff and the medical staff, for standing by me through the injury.

"I did my best to repay that and I'm really proud of what I contributed."

Inevitably, the experience has strengthened Sisi's desire to play at the highest level for England, as has the Lions' series win in Australia.

Irish's youngest debutant when he made his LV Cup debut as a 17 year-old (a record that has since been broken by Anthony Watson, also now at Bath), Sisi shared a year in the treatment room with front-row star Corbisiero, one of England's two Lions, throughout last season.

"We were both going through rehab, so it was great to see him do so well because day in, day out he was struggling with his knee. The next thing you know he's starting the final Lions Test and winning the series! It was awesome to see him do so well as he's a great guy as well as being a great player.

"Set-piece wise he's a bit of a guru, he really knows what he's doing and is now at Northampton Saints with George North so the future bodes well for them!"

After following Corbisiero out of the Madejski Stadium along with several others, Sisi is looking forward to a new chapter at Bath along with three former London Irish colleagues, including England Under-20s teammate Watson.

"I'm hugely excited," he said. "Neal Hatley (Bath's forwards coach) gave me my debut at Irish and I'll be playing with a lot of young players I know, like Anthony and Ollie Devoto, who was with us in France.

"It's a new set-up there, it'll be a huge challenge and the club will be pushing for big achievements. It's that ambition I want to buy into."

Sisi will be competing for a
alongside the likes of Spr
Francis Louw and Carl Fearn
within a few hours of this int
made national headlines for
wrong reasons when he knock
Gavin Henson, another new
arrival, in one of the city's pubs.

"I'm under no illusions," say
who has signed a two-year contr

"Carl Fearns is on the verge
England side and Francois Louw
in the starting back row, both un

Cup winner Sisi?

E BALL: David Sisu in possession during England's Junior World Cup victo- the United States.

WORLD CUP WINNER: David Sisi shows off his medal.

a place ingbok s who, erview, all the ked out Bath ys Sisi, ract. of the y is also believ-able players who I'll be looking to learn off.

"I'm really looking forward to being in the mix with them.

"This move is not financial, it's about my progression.

"I want to learn and to do that you have to work with guys you trust and I know them.

"Coming off the back of such a huge injury, I also need a fresh start.

"I was going a bit stale and hadn't had the chance to show the new coaching staff at Irish what I could do. I've proved myself to guys like Hatley before and will be looking to repay the faith he's shown in me.

"I just can't wait to get down there and be among so many good young English players at a club that the town really gets behind.

"The heritage there is incredible.

"When I went for a medical nearly everyone I saw was wearing something to do with Bath, the club's in the middle of the town and that's something I've never experienced before, having been based at Sunbury and then Reading with Irish.

"I've played at The Rec a few times and am looking forward to playing in front of a very traditional rugby crowd.

"The Rec's an awesome place in a beautiful city, the club's hugely ambitious and has the backing of the fans so it's a really good opportunity for me.

"I want to be settled at a club and Bath ticks all the boxes."

Path to glory for England...

HOW England won the Junior World Cup – by David Sisi

France 6 England 30 (Group A)

TO beat France in France was a fantastic achievement. We were in La Rochelle for the pool games and couldn't hear anything on the field against the hosts.

It was deafening, the French love their rugby and it was good for our guys to win in front of such a partisan crowd.

Their coach is the ex-France captain, Fabien Pelous, and they had some really good players, including an unbelievable hooker in Christopher Tolofua, who starts for Toulouse.

It was a huge ask for the boys to get a good result against them, but I picked up a dead leg so missed the next match against South Africa, a hugely physical encounter that we were unlucky to lose 31-24.

I spent about 48 hours after the French game getting no sleep and just icing the leg. Unfortunately, my mum drove all the way there for the only game I didn't play!

She watched the rest in the Village Bells, Eling. My dad's retired so was able to stay out there all month.

England 109 USA 0 (Group A)

THIS was one of the more difficult games, to be honest and a huge game for me, wanting to keep the shirt going into the semi-finals and final.

For those lads not involved in the bigger games it was a chance for them to stake a claim.

We were out there as a collective, as a squad, but everyone wanted to play in the semi-final so this game had a lot of weight to it, not least because we knew we had to win by a minimum of about 40 points to go through.

What we didn't want was the Irish getting a bonus point by scoring four tries against New Zealand so after the game everyone was gathered round phones checking on the score during the last ten minutes of the other Group A game. I'd already been off for ten minutes with another knock so it was a really nervous wait! We were bricking it because the Irish were in New Zealand's 22 for the last 20 minutes.

We'd done everything we could and deserved to go through after beating France and then getting this record scoreline.

England 33 New Zealand 21(semi-final)

TO face The Haka and then come through a tough, tough game was awesome.

Our forwards coach, Ian Peel, liked the idea of bringing me off the bench for the last 30 minutes, especially as I was coming back from injury.

I came on at openside for most of the second half when Matt Hankin got knocked out.

If I have a preferred position it's blindside or No. 8, it's a bit of an ongoing joke how much I seem to be playing at openside – I played there an awful lot for London Irish as well.

They had huge centres trying to run down our midfield and my job was to get off the scrums and off the back of line-outs, make those first hits, pressure their break down and make hard carries where I could get.

There had a big old number five with a beard who looked about 30, he was hitting me hard and I was hitting him hard. It was good fun and I was pleased with how I did, I had some pretty good turnover stats throughout the whole tournament.

We were able to slow their ball game and give our guys, like prop Luke Cowan-Dickie, time to get across the line and make some big hits. It put them on the back foot.

They had won all their group games and their captain, number seven Ardie Savea, the younger brother of the All Black winger Julian, is a heck of a player.

You could tell that rugby runs through their blood, their physicality was absolutely awesome.

When they tackle they hit you well enough to put you on the floor and the heat on the breakdown was absolutely formidable.

So for us to come through that game the way we did was almost as big a highlight as winning the final.

Credit to the Kiwis as well, it's the first time they've never reached the final but they were great and all wished us well in the final.

England 23 Wales 15 (final)

WALES beating South Africa was another huge semi-final shock - the odds for a northern hemisphere final would have been ridiculous!

Again, I came off the bench - when we were 15-3 down.

I know the Wales back row really well, having played against them for the last few years. Daniel Thomas is unbelievable over the ball, a bit of a turnover guru, and their captain, Ellis Jenkins, is a really good player at blindside/No.8 so we had to be so on the ball breakdown wise.

My job coming off the bench was to make sure energies were high and that we were working hard, not letting them get on our ball and spoil it.

We've got some great backs so I knew if we could get the ball out fast they would find holes in the Welsh defence.

The whole bench impacted the game.

The first team did really well to wear them down, they worked really hard and Sladey (fly-half Henry Slade) was on fire but something needed to change at 15-3.

We have such depth in the squad that guys coming off the bench had the impact we needed."

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Holiday football fun

EASTLEIGH FC in the Community will be running more of their popular summer holiday courses from July 29 to August 23.

The courses cater for youngsters aged 5-13 and are run by Eastleigh's highly qualified and enthusiastic community coaching team.

For further information or to book a place visit the club's new website (www.eastleighfc.com) or call 023 8061 3361.

Hand grabs at move

EX-EASTLEIGH loanee Jamie Hand has signed for Conference North club Stockport County. The 29-year-old former England under-19 international and Watford trainnee had a brief stint with the Spitfires last November on loan from Mansfield Town.

He made two first-team starts for Richard Hill's men in the FA Trophy defeat at Hayes & Yeading and in the 1-0 reverse at AFC Hornchurch in the Conference South.

'Church sign Purdy

SAM Purdy has completed a move to Christchurch from Dorset Premier League side Holt United.

Purdy was on trial at Hurn Bridge and netted in Church's opening pre-season friendly defeat by AFC Bournemouth.

Hutch still a Money

MONEYFIELDS can rely on the goalscoring prowess of Steve Hutchings for another Sydenhams Premier campaign.

The predatory former Bournemouth and Havant & Waterlooville striker has returned from a brief stint in Australia and will be looking to build on the 49 Wessex goals he has banged in for the Dover Road outfit over the last two seasons.

Also signed on for the Money men are James Ford, David Birmingham, James Lacey, Danny Horrell, Louis Savage, Jake Morgan and Josh Case.

Jamie Hore is expected back at some point before Christmas after suffering a broken leg.

Ex-Saint Bobby Scott (2), former Romsey man Stuart Green and trialist Ethan Wiggins netted in Moneys' 4-1 friendly win over Chichester City.

Field sign up Tambling

SYDENHAMS One outfit Petersfield Town have signed former Gosport Borough and Fareham Town striker Robbie Tambling from Hayling United.

Petersfield boss Ian Saunders has also recruited Luke Heard and Aaron Camp from Moneyfields, while ex-Fareham man Steve Cammack has returned to Love Lane.

YOUNG GUNS: Winchester City Football Club's family day for the Joe Glover Trust. Winchester City Youth (Red) V Joe Glover XI (White).

CITY'S CHARITY

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Hotshot Forbes still a class act

HE may be 34 and past his prime, but Andy Forbes is living proof that class is permanent.

Nine years ago the former Andover striker tore up the Winchester City record books with a stunning 76-goal return as the cathedral city club powered to an FA Vase/Wessex League/ League Cup treble.

And last Sunday he was back in the red and black stripes of Winchester in a special fund-raising game between City's 2004 Vase heroes and new boss Graham Kemp's class of 2013 which attracted a bumper 600 crowd to the Denplan City Ground.

Although Neil Hards' 'old boys' were on the end of a 5-1 defeat on a blisteringly hot afternoon at Abbotts Barton, inevitably Forbes – now with Conference South newcomers Gosport Borough – proved he still has that happy scoring knack – even though he has been plying his trade as a defender for Eastleigh for the last two years.

Kemp, a huge fan of the gifted utility man, said: "The day went really well and it was nice to see Forbesy back at Winchester again.

"We only played half an hour each way because it was so hot and Forbesy was only on for about 20 minutes of the first half, but he was still the best player on the park and scored a great goal.

"He must be one of the best that's ever played in this area and I really like him as a character as well.

"He just walks in very unassuming, there's nothing big-time about him.

"He's such a nice lad and such a good player that I've got a smile on my face just chatting about him.

"When you look at him you think 'you don't look particularly quick or particularly good in the air', but he is. He's got everything."

Given the sweltering conditions, youth inevitably prevailed as two-goal Joe Maxwell, a former Eastleigh reserve player signed from Bashley, ex-Alton and Christchurch man Scott Sanderson, former Downton youngster Nick Oliver and ex-Eastleigh and AFC Totton midfielder Chris Mason netted for Kemp's new-look City side.

"Fitness definitely came into it," admitted Kemp. "It was 2-1 to us at half-time and I just said to the lads to step it up a bit.

"We got dragged into a bit of a charity game in the first half, but I asked our lads to put a bit of tempo into it and they did.

"But there are no prizes for that, it was expected.

"Some of the lads we were up against were 40, so we should have won the game."

Dave Malone, the driving force behind the 2004 Vase success and now back at Winchester as director of football, was delighted with how the whole Family Fun Day went.

Held in conjunction with the Joe Glover Trust (JGT) – a charity set up in memory of young Joe, who died of cancer, aged eight, in August 2006 – the event proved a runaway success.

As a prelude to the main match there was a competitive under-16 game between JGT and Ryan Andress's Winchester youth side which JGT edged 1-0.

"A huge thank you to the Glover family, who shared the day with us, and to all those that made it such a special day," said Malone.

"It was great to see Hardsy, Mossy (coach Steve Moss) and all those legends of the past.

"Trust Forbesy to get on the score sheet!" he laughed.

"Massive thanks too to all our helpers and supporters. We estimate that around 600 people attended and everyone seemed to have a great day.

"These people make the club what it is and we thank them all."

Fund-raising night cement's Common's charity link

COLDEN Common FC held a successful race night with a three-course meal at Eastleigh's Silverlake Stadium home.

The event was attended by 110 people and raised over £3,000 which is being split equally between the football club and the Naomi House children's hospice in Winchester.

The club's link with Naomi House was strengthened towards the end of last season when Common were keen to reward their players with some much-needed new kit for their Hampshire Premier League/Hampshire FA Intermediate cup finals.

Taking up the story, Common chairman Dave Hadfield said: "As club finances were tight, as always, I approached Gareth Triggell, an ex-player whose 18-year-old son Elliott plays for our reserves, to ask if he might be able to support the club by paying for a new kit. He agreed to do this.

"When I asked him what sponsor details he would like on the front of the shirts, he asked if we had a link with a charity and, if so, to put that on the shirt instead of the name of his company.

"We had already started planning a fund-raising event and intended sharing the proceeds with Naomi House. So, after discussions with Karen Coleman at their Winchester branch, it was agreed that we would display 'Naomi House and jacksplace' on our shirts.

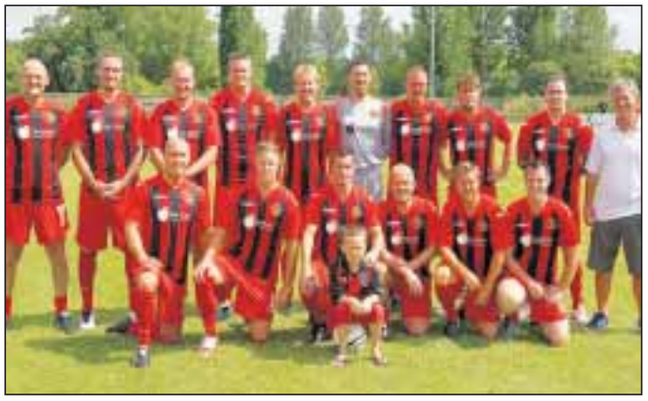
"We are hoping this will be the start of a long association between Colden Common FC and the Naomi House Charity."

Hadfield added: "Huge thanks are due to the extended family and friends of our first-team manager Dave Woods, who organised the race night and dinner, and to Eastleigh FC's Kevin Dixon who, as the go-between, made it all possible."

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league Football

LINE UP: Winchester City's current first team.



VINTAGE CROP: Winchester's 2004 FA Vase winning side.

DAY WORKOUT

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GRAHAM Kemp has almost completed his rebuilding job at Winchester City.

Three more new arrivals – strikers Nic Turpin and Russell Cook and midfielder Chris Mason – have put pen to paper and young goalkeeper Ross Casey from AFC Totton was expected to follow suit this week.

Jamie Musselwhite – 35-goal hero of City's 2005/06 Wessex championship-winning side – is also on the wanted list after featuring in pre-season and will speak again to his old club when he gets back from holiday.

Kemp said: "Jamie's not signed yet, but he played for us against US Portsmouth (a 4-3 win) and scored two goals. He went off on holiday afterwards and will be meeting us when he gets back."

Mason is already a well-known face at Winchester having been a key cog in the side that lifted the Wessex title trophy two seasons ago during Guy Butters's time in charge.

New boss Kemp doesn't know the midfielder personally but said: "He's a quality addition for us. He's looked sharp in pre-season and Greener (midfielder Liam Green) says he'll be my best signing. We're lucky to have a player like him along with the likes of Leigh Mills."

ACTION: Winchester City's 2004 FA Vase winning side take on their 2013 counterparts.

Kemp's other additions, Turpin and Cook, are both strikers signed from Downton and Christchurch respectively.

They join two other ex-Christchurch players – Ben Osborne and Tom Price – plus ex-Eastleigh and Bashley man Joe Maxwell in the race for frontline places.

"Nic Turpin's been around the Wessex scene for quite a while and regularly gets 25-30 goals, as does Russell," said Kemp.

"We've not got an Andy Forbes who can get us 60-70 goals a season, so we've got ourselves a few who can get us 25-30."

Price and Cook started as they mean to go on by bagging a goal apiece in City's 3-0 friendly win at Sydenhams Division One side Stockbridge. Karl Yelland was also on the scoresheet.

"Stockbridge had drawn with Downton and Fleet, but we beat them quite comfortably and they were complimentary afterwards about the team we've got," said Kemp.

"But we've got some tough friendlies to come.

"After East Cowes Vics away on Saturday (July 20), we've got big tests next week when we play AFC Totton on Tuesday (7.30) and Fleet Town on Saturday (both at home)."

Winchester are also running the rule over former Havant & Waterlooville goalkeeper Tommy Taylor and are due to speak to Eastleigh midfielder Callum Casson when he returns from Hong Kong.

Closed door trials unearth two gems for Borough

ALEX Pike invited two of 13 hopefuls back for trials with Gosport Borough following a behind-closed-doors friendly against Hampshire Premier League champions Locks Heath last week.

Jonny Brogden and Jack Barton were given another chance to shine for the Conference South newcomers, but team boss Pike released the rest.

"I cannot offer anyone reserve team football now that we have disbanded the team," he said.

"Some of the lads were good, but I already have a very good set of players here and we need players who can challenge them for places immediately."

Oxford-born Barton, a 19-year-old right-back/central midfielder, was on professional forms at Aldershot Town last season and was previously with Swindon Town's Centre of Excellence.

Brogden was in the Conference South with Chelmsford City last term. He started out with QPR youth and has since had spells with Aldershot and Woking. Gosport continued their pre-season build-up with a 2-1 win at AFC Totton on Monday.

Borough, who included ex-Stags favourite Mike Gosney in their ranks, were 2-0 up inside 16 minutes.

Brady Norton fired the visitors in front on eleven minutes before Barton curled a 25-yard beauty in off the post.

Nathaniel Sherborne, making a welcome comeback from a season-long injury, pulled one back for Totton in the 55th minute and the Calor Southern Premier outfit found the net again through Luke Roberts 12 minutes from time, only to be flagged offside.

In between times, Totton's sub keeper Ali Pugi made smart second-half saves from Gosney and another ex-Stags forward Justin Bennett.

Non-league News

May is going nowere

VETERAN goalkeeper Steve May has re-signed for Horndean for the upcoming Sydenhams Premier season.

Ex-Havant man May has had spells at Hayling United and Blackfield & Langley and was also joint manager at New Milton Town before moving to Five Heads Park.

Also re-signing for the Deans is Rob Lofters-Desport, a 21-year-old striker who started out with Portsmouth and Wycombe Wanderers.

Jeff has been busy

DOWNTON boss Jeff Softley, pictured below, has been busy signing and re-signing players for the new Sydenhams Premier Division campaign.

Former Amesbury Town player Winston Daley – a 21-year-old striker - has put pen to paper for the Wick Lane side, while both Joe Dorrington and ex-Bemerton and Amesbury man Liam Hope have re-signed for 2013/14.

Frontman Declan McGregor, formerly of Salisbury City, has also committed again for the new season, but the Robins have lost the services of top scorer Nic Turpin to title hopefuls Winchester City.

Jack Parker and former Andover New Street player Jack Pitt are new additions and, staying with the club from last season are Ben Smith, Dan Telfer and experienced former Laverstock & Ford and Amesbury goal-getter Danny Western.

Town start with a win

ANDOVER Town, the Sydenhams League's newest side, eased into their pre-season campaign with a 3-1 win over Hampshire Premier League outfit Colden Common at Sparsholt College.

Manager Neil Benson fielded two separate elevens in each half with a number of ex-Andover FC players – Danny Fields, Ollie Yeates, Josh Barnett and Claudio Herbert – among them.

"It was a very useful first run-out for a very young side against what is a well established club," said Benson.

After Tom Richards had volleyed Town in front, player/assistant manager Lewis Benson made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time, nodding home Cameron Hough's corner.

It was all change at the break and Andover's second-half team took just two minutes to build on the lead when Tom Pigford's long run into the box ended with Tyler Betteridge side-footing home.

CALL THE SPORTSDESK: 023 8042 4515

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Boss Jason is a critic

BASINGSTOKE Town boss Jason Bristow admitted to being disappointed with aspects of his side's performance as they lost their opening pre-season friendly 1-0 at home to Reading's under-21s.

Shepherd Murumbedzi bagged the only goal of the game from the penalty spot after 35 minutes and the Royals youngsters would have got more but for some decent second-half saves from Joe McDonnell in the Town goal.

In contrast, Stoke created very little going forward and Bristow, pictured, felt their passing should have been infinitely better.

"We did not pass the ball well enough at all," said the Town boss. "Our passing was poor throughout the whole game and a lot of things we'd been working on in training did not happen out there today.

"With the weather being so hot, we made the decision to mix up the teams and it might have been a different result had we gone with our strongest 11.

"Reading were a good side and the conditions were difficult, but that's no excuse for not passing the ball well."

Basingstoke's team for the first half featured new signings Louis Wells, Neil Barrett and ex-Salisbury man Robbie Matthews who all made a decent starts for the Conference South club

Trialist Zack Tizer, the grandson of former Town manager Tom Davies, also made a good impression in midfield.

H&W fixture is switched

FAREHAM Town's friendly against Havant & Waterlooville, initially scheduled as a home game, has been switched to Hawks' Westleigh Park home this Tuesday (July 23, 7.45pm, entry £5).

Town boss Matt Parr has made some recent squad additions, signing ex-Moneyfields and Alton winger Lee Tigwell from Hayling United, and former Alton midfielder Ian Humble, pictured, who had a spell with Winchester City last term. Parr has, however, lost towering defender Matt Burt and midfielder James Roden.

Burbidge has an about turn over move

POOLE Town wide man Luke Burbidge appeared to be on the verge of a dramatic U-turn this week after confirming he was in talks over a move to Weymouth.

Dolphins had announced that Burbidge, 21, was contracted to the club for next season, but both the player and boss Tom Killick admitted the deal had been agreed but not signed, ***writes Andy Mitchell.***

That has paved the way for Terras manager Brendon King to swoop for a second Poole favourite having already secured the services of last season's Tatnam captain Michael Walker.

Burbidge, who made 50 appearances in a variety of positions last term, said Walker's influence could have a bearing on his decision.

Asked about his future, he said: "I am talking to Weymouth and I have had an offer.

"I am definitely considering my future because I know a number of lads there.

"I spoke to Tommy (Killick) about signing a deal. He asked me to sign a contract, but I always made it clear I wanted to be non-contract for personal reasons and I will stay non-contract wherever I end up.

"I was more than happy to stay at Poole at the time because they are an outstanding club and have a number of good players.

"But Weymouth is a massive club.

"Michael Walker is a quality player and a big leader and, if I do end up going, he will be a big part in the reason why."

Killick commented: "Luke had agreed a deal to re-sign but it didn't get signed and, in theory, he is free to join anyone.

"It has come out of the blue and I am hoping he will stay. But if it comes down to finances, we are clearly not in a position to compete with Weymouth."

Confirming Burbidge was on his radar, Weymouth boss Brendon King said: "The lad is out of contract and, as I have always said, when decent players become available, I will always be interested."

Small squad's a problem for B&L boss

BLACKFIELD & Langley boss Glenn Burnett says the club's decision to pull out of Tuesday's pre-season friendly at Dorchester Town was regrettable but unavoidable.

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Blackfield – Sydenhams Premier Division champions last season – are working with a smaller squad this term and that, combined with holidays, work commitments and some minor injury niggles – led them to cancel the Dorchester trip on the morning of the match.

Angry Dorchester manager Phil Simkin branded the decision not to travel "an absolute disgrace", but Burnett – who recently took over the Blackfield reins from Ashley Vickers – said it was out of his control.

"The players were due to travel on a coach we'd already paid for, but we had too many out to go," said Burnett, pictured.

"We've pulled out of the Wyvern Combination League, so we've got no reserve team this year, our under-18s are under-16s, and we're working with a tighter budget and a smaller squad.

"We've got players on holiday, one or two were working and we've got a couple of injuries.

"With a squad of only 17, I can't take any risks. I've got to look after the boys and do what's best for them.

"That's where we're at at the moment I'm afraid. It only takes injuries and a couple of holidays and we look a bit fragile squad-wise.

"As much as I apologise for what happened on Tuesday, there was nothing I could do."

Simkin, though, was not amused.

Blackfield's no-show meant the Magpies' first two pre-season friendlies had failed to materialise with the previous Monday's home game against Exeter postponed. That time, though, it was Dorchester's own fault as their Avenue Stadium pitch wasn't ready in time.

Simkin would have played two different sides against Blackfield but had to make do with a training match instead.

He said: "I had a phone call at 11am from the Blackfield manager to say he had players out.

"I told him I had players coming out of my ears and could loan him three or four, but he was having none of it.

"We'd arranged stewards, bar staff and officials, but they didn't seem to care.

"I've not experienced anything like this, not at 11am on match day. It's just totally unprofessional."

Dorchester travel to Tom Killick's Southern Premier new boys Poole Town today, while Blackfield have home games against Wimborne Town (today) and Bashley (Tuesday), followed by a July 27 trip to Gillingham Town.

Starting with cup game is 'baffling'

GLENN Burnett is baffled by the prospect of kicking off the 2013/14 season with a Sydenhams Wessex League Cup game.

While almost half of the Premier Division will dive straight into league fixtures on the opening Saturday, the rest will be joining several Division One clubs in league cup action on Friday, August 2/Saturday, August 3.

As reigning Premier champions, Burnett's Blackfield would have loved to have started their defence of the crown with a Saturday game.

But instead the Watersiders must open their Gang Warily doors to first division side Laverstock & Ford in the League Cup first round on August 3 and wait until Tuesday, August 6 to get league games under way with a mouth-watering home clash against last term's runners-up Alresford Town.

And unlike Blackfield, Alresford will already have got a league fixture under their belts away at Newport IoW on the Saturday.

"How can our first fixture be a League Cup game and our opening league game be on a Tuesday night?" asked bemused boss Burnett, who has stepped up from assistant manager following Ashley Vickers' summer departure.

"Playing Laverstock in the Cup on the Saturday and then Alresford in the league on the Tuesday just baffles me. It should be the other way round. Surely everyone should start the league on the Saturday, but some will and others won't and I find that strange."

Non-league Football

Young guns still hold the key for Bowers

DANNY Bowers' return to the Folland Park hotseat does not mean he will abandon his commitment to youth.

Having taken a year out as first-team boss last season and managed the Planemakers' under-14s, he plans to combine the two roles next term – with a little help from his friends.

Bowers said: "I was about to have a complete break last year, but then the under-14s' manager left by mutual agreement and I decided to take them on.

"I wanted to get the youth system running so that the under-14s could move up to under-15s this year and hopefully one day progress into the first team.

"I shan't be leaving the under-15s, I want to see them all the way through.

"(First team coach) Tim Middleton is going to help me with the coaching side and there are a couple of dads willing to help out.

"I wouldn't want to leave the side because they're a massive part of this football club.

"Having started the journey with them, I want to see it through."

Competing under the club's former name GE Hamble, the under-14s finished third in the Southampton & District Tyro League Division 5 last term – and already Bowers sees promise for the future.

"We've got a lot of good youngsters who I'm sure will go on and play Wessex Premier football for us," he said.

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

"We've got a very young reserve team now (brought over from Winchester City) and that bridges the gap for these young lads as they progress through the ranks.

"Next year they will be under-16s and a few of them will move into the reserves."

With Christchurch and Folland's neighbours Sholing setting high standards in youth development, Follands are acutely aware that they have some lost ground to make up.

"We've got to catch up with everyone else," he said. "Sholing's reserves are all youngsters who have come through the ranks and they're all capable Wessex League players.

"Against US Portsmouth last week we played three 16-year-olds.

"They are not quite ready yet but I'm excited by the youth that is coming through.

"Richard Gregory and Jamie Barron will be our longest-serving players – and yet they're still in their 20s," said Bowers. "We're going to have a real youthful side.

"Young Alex Sheath and Rhys Evans are still with us and Josh Oxlade's a massive prospect at right-back."

"We've also got Will Harris at left-back and Matty Graham who's now a well-established Wessex player."

COMMITTED TO YOUTH: Folland Park boss Danny Bowers.

Fleetwood signing completes the puzzle for Hill

RICHARD Hill believes the signing of much sought-after forward/wideman Stuart Fleetwood provides further evidence of Eastleigh's growing stature in the non-League game.

Despite speaking to clubs in the Conference National, the former Hereford United and Forest Green Rovers goal-getter has opted to sign a one-year deal for Hill's Conference South promotion hopefuls following his release from Luton Town.

With their latest arrival, Eastleigh – play-off semi-finalists last season – now boast a pedigree strikeforce of Craig McAllister, Ben Strevens and Fleetwood complemented by the goalscoring talents of Jai Reason and Damian Scannell.

Hill said: "The one position I felt we needed was a left-sided player.

"We knew Stuart was speaking to clubs in the Conference, albeit a little bit further north than he would have wished, so I turned my interest towards another couple of left-sided players.

"It then became evident that 'Fleets' didn't want to move up north and he made it known to me through (defender) Chris Todd that he would be delighted to come and play for Eastleigh.

"We are seeing a shift now in the esteem the club is held in as players of this calibre want to come and play for Eastleigh."

PEN TO PAPER: Stuart Fleetwood signs for Eastleigh.

Fleetwood started his career with Cardiff City, making eight Football League appearances and featuring for the Welsh under-17 and under-21 sides.

He then played more than 40 games for Hereford United before signing a two-year deal for Forest Green in the summer of 2007.

Fleetwood was already grabbing the attention of League scouts and it was Charlton Athletic who eventually signed him in June 2008.

Loan spells followed with Cheltenham, Brighton and Exeter before Fleetwood made his long-awaited Charlton debut as an 82nd-minute substitute at Hereford in 2010.

But that was to be his only appearance for the Addicks and he returned to Exeter on a season-long loan prior to rejoining Hereford for an undisclosed fee.

He went on to finish Bulls' top scorer with 18 goals, helping the club survive relegation from the Football League.

Fleetwood had been with Luton since August 2011 and top scored with 16 goals in 31 starts in his first season.

But he was dropped when John Still replaced Paul Buckle as manager and released at the end of the season.

Fleetwood, who has penned a one-year Eastleigh deal, is Hill's sixth summer signing and follows Jamie Collins, Will Evans, Yemi Odubade, Ben Strevens and Sam Wilson into the Silverlake fold.

He is likely to get his first Spitfires outing today (Saturday, July 20) at home to Aldershot Town (3pm).

Non-league News

Giles fills in for Salisbury

WITH new boss Mikey Harris away on his UEFA A Licence course, coach Chris Giles took charge of Salisbury City for Tuesday's pre-season friendly at Havant & Waterlooville.

The game was deadlocked at 0-0 until the 90th minute when Ryan Woodford grabbed a last-gasp winner for the Hawks, heading home Ed Harris' cross from 12 yards.

There was still time for Salisbury to nick an equaliser but that man Woodford denied them with a goal-line clearance in stoppage time.

Conference National new boys Salisbury played several trialists, including the experienced Steve Tulley (ex-Torquay, Weymouth and Exeter) and Exodus Geohaghon (ex-Kettering, Kidderminster and Mansfield) in defence and former Saints midfielder Jake Thomson, released by Newport County in May.

Whites also featured a familiar face up front in Jake Reid, who was released by Salisbury in January last year and has since played for Newport County and AFC Telford United.

Havant snap up ex-Saint

FORMER Saints goalkeeper Scott Bevan has joined Conference South club Havant & Waterlooville after impressing in trial matches against Wycombe Wanderers and Portsmouth.

Born in Southampton, the 33-year-old started his career as an associate schoolboy with his hometown club before turning professional in 1997.

He didn't make a first-team appearance for Saints, but gained experience on loan with the likes of Ayr United, Stoke City, Huddersfield and Wycombe before joining MK Dons in 2004.

It was during a loan spell with Tamworth that the 6ft 7in stopper's life and career were turned upside down by a serious kidney injury sustained at Forest Green Rovers.

He had the kidney removed and many thought he would never play football again, but Bevan showed remarkable courage and resilience to return to the professional game with Kidderminster, Shrewsbury, Torquay and Bristol Rovers.

A troublesome wrist injury kept him out for the whole of last season and he was released by Rovers at the start of this month. Bevan had made 42 appearances for The Gas having followed former manager Paul Buckle from Torquay.

Non-league Football

Romsey backroom boys take the stage

THEY say many hands make light work and that should certainly ring true at Romsey Town this season.

The Bypass Ground club haven't always been overly blessed with backroom personnel, but manager Danny Barker and his trusty right-hand man Carl Bennett have done their best to put it right for 2013/14.

Dan Piper, Town's first-team coach last season, has been joined by another Level 2 qualified-coach Andy Samuels – plus goalkeeping coach Nigel Green.

Romsey's new reserve set-up will be headed by ex-Lyndhurst man Martin Jennings, with James Phillips assisting, and he should have a large pool of young talent to dip into thanks to the club's exciting link-up with Romsey Town Youth FC.

Between them Piper and Samuels have totted up nearly 30 years' coaching experience.

Piper, an FA Level 2 coach, has worked within international coaching organisations and as an individual player coach primarily working with children in schools, clubs and development centres. During his time in the game he has worked with a host of professionals including Brazil's Jairzinho and Socrates, Manchester United legend Bryan Robson and QPR and England's Jermaine Jenas.

He recently set up Tecnico Coaching, specialising in Futsal training, and is currently helping Botley Village FC develop their youth teams in the Eastleigh & District and Southampton Tyro leagues.

Relishing his move into men's football, Piper said: "Romsey Town is my first senior coaching role and I'm looking forward to my second year as first-team coach.

"The club is starting to move forward after a difficult season last year. The management team have worked well during the off-season and the squad is looking strong ahead of 2013/14."

Samuels has been involved in football for more than 12 years and is currently employed full-time with sports coaching company Planet Sport.

He works closely with Romsey Town Youth FC where he coaches and develops the players and volunteer coaches throughout the 20-plus teams.

Like Piper, Samuels holds a multitude of coaching qualifications, including FA Level 2 and FA Youth Module awards, and is keen to work towards his UEFA B licence.

"After a playing career which includes spells at Plymouth Argyle, Bashley, Otterbourne and Winchester City, I'm determined to forge a successful career in a non-playing role and I'm very excited about the new season with Romsey Town," he said.

Barker, left, couldn't be happier with the way the club is shaping up after a testing first season in which Romsey had a lucky escape from relegation to Sydenhams One.

Having to rebuild from scratch last summer, he always knew it would take time to turn things round but he and Bennett are finally seeing the fruits of their labours.

"For all the difficulties of last year, I always knew where we needed to take the club and that it would take time to set things in motion," he said.

"We've now got a very strong backroom staff and the club seems a far cry from last season already. We're far more professional now.

"We're working closely with Romsey Town Youth FC and we've changed our training ground to Mountbatten School which is good because it's in the town and it gives us a better surface to work on."

Things bubbling up nicely at Wimborne

STEVE Cuss is pleased with his Wimborne Town squad ahead of the new Calor Southern One South & West season.

Last term's mid-table finish was the highest ever for the Magpies in the non-League pyramid and Cuss is hoping that with his summer additions – Ollie Phillipson-Masters, Sam Griffin, Mark Gamble, James Stokoe and Luke Whitley – he has the right personnel to push for the play-offs.

"We now have the squad needed for the new campaign," he said.

"We identified certain positions and I'm pleased we were able to bring in the players to cover them."

Influential midfielder Jon Blake, pictured, who suffered knee ligament damage last season, is on the brink of a comeback.

"Jon is working hard to build up strength in the knee," Cuss confirmed. "He should be fit by the start of the season."

EX-SPURS LIVING IN

EIGHT years ago the England under-17 football squad included four men for whom life and fate would lead in completely different directions.

Theo Walcott has gone on to become one of the most famous faces in football.

Michael Mancienne was spotted playing for Kingstonian as a nine-year-old and went through the England age groups while with Chelsea. He is now plying his trade in the Bundesliga with Hamburg.

Fabrice Muamba began his career at Arsenal and was capped at all levels up to U21 for England before his career, and almost his life, ended on the pitch when he suffered a massive heart attack while playing for Bolton Wanderers.

The fourth man in the group is Winchester City's Leigh Mills.

And it is both a surprise and a delight to find that, quite possibly, he is as content with his fate as any of the others as he looks towards the new Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division season.

Mills, currently a sports teacher at Wellington Academy in Ludgershall, hit the headlines as a 16-year-old when he joined Tottenham Hotspur as an Academy scholar from Swindon Town.

Tottenham reportedly paid around £150,000 in a deal which, with clauses, could have been eventually worth £1m.

"I had been scouted by someone from Lilleshall for the U16 side which played in the Victory Shield on Sky Sports," said Mills.

"From there I was invited to Old Trafford for a trial at Manchester United, but I wasn't offered a contract.

"I did well for England and scored and, from then on, the phone never stopped ringing.

"I had a trial at Everton but was homesick and it didn't go well."

In the end Spurs offered Mills a deal which included a one-year scholarship and a three-year pro contract, and he left his home town of Andover for what he confessed was a "culture shock".

It seemed only a matter of time before Mills would break into the first team as he was a regular in the youth and reserves.

He was part of the Spurs team that won the Premier Reserve League South title in 2006.

But injuries were beginning to hamper his progress.

"I had three separate ankle ligament injuries and needed an operation which put me out for seven months," he recalled.

During that time, the first team was tantalisingly close as he was called up for the UEFA Cup second round second leg away fixture to Cypriot side Anorthosis Famagusta in late 2007.

He was an unused sub, and despite the injuries he was given an additional contract and was still thought highly enough to star for England at U18 and U19 level.

But by then doubts had begun to set in as to whether he wanted the lifestyle and the pressure of playing in front of big crowds.

"I had got used to playing in front of small crowds with maybe a few mates but when Brentford came in for me on loan I went there," he said.

"But things went wrong somehow and I was recalled and instead went on loan to Gillingham.

"All of a sudden the pressure was piled on and, although I made my League debut for them, Mark Stimson the manager didn't really fancy me as a player.

"The style of football was so different to the slick passing game at Spurs and with England."

After a handful of games at Priestfield, Mills went back to Spurs and in 2009 was released from his contract.

That left him with a sour taste in his mouth and a young family to provide for as he returned to Andover.

Having married Emily at the age of 19, Mills was soon to become a father.

Although a trial followed up the road at Aldershot Town, he had long since stopped enjoying the game.

"Mentally I had just lost it as a player," he said, "and I wasn't offered anything by Aldershot.

"There were others interested such as York and Chesterfield but I couldn't see myself as a journeyman footballer and it would have meant uprooting Emily and our daughter."

So, at 21, Mills stunned many who had followed him since his 16-year old days at Swindon by retiring from the game.

Non-league Football

STAR LEIGH IS THE MOMENT

LEFT: Leigh Mills celebrates while playing for Winchester City in his last spell with the club.

RIGHT: Mills signing on for Tottenham with then boss Martin Jol.

BELOW: A programme cover featuring Mills for an England youth international clash.

Instead, he took a job delivering for a food company for six months while he weighed up his options of a second career.

Having stopped playing and training for a year, the stress of being a full-time pro was lifted and he began a course of sports science run by the PFA.

"I contemplated the police force at one stage, but I have since been taken on as an unqualified teacher at Wellington Academy while doing my degree and have gained my Level 2 coaching badge," added Mills

"My wife was looking after the children and couldn't work and so when Nathan Peprah-Annan rang me, who I knew from Spurs, he asked me if I fancied playing for Winchester City, who at the time were doing well and were paying decent wages."

Under Glenn Cockerill, Mills soon found what was a good balance of pressure and competitiveness and during two years with City won the Sydenhams Wessex League title in 2011/12.

It seemed a natural progression back up to what many thought his level should be as he signed for Conference South side Eastleigh.

But no sooner had he begun to climb, circumstances combined to bring him down again.

The Spitfires were edging towards many of their squad going full-time, which was not on the cards for Mills, and, with the travel and bigger crowds, the stress was once again making playing a chore.

"There could have been a problem with playing on Sundays which I was not happy with as I worship on the Sabbath as my family and I are all Christians," he added.

"So I was on the move again but back to the Wessex League as Blackfield & Langley offered me good terms which I could not turn down.

"It was a struggle training and playing down there three times a week, but we won the league last season."

Meanwhile, there was wholesale change at Winchester City with a new hierarchy and a new direction.

So when Mills was offered the chance to rejoin them, it was perfect with the club no more than 20 minutes down the road.

At just 25, Leigh Mills has packed more into his footballing life than many who have enjoyed long careers.

It remains to be seen just what path this immensely friendly and genuine family man will take in the years that follow.

Non-league News

OPENING WEEK'S SYDENHAMS WESSEX FIXTURES -

Friday, August 2
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
SWL Cup, first round: Fawley AFC v Christchurch, Folland Sports v AFC Portchester, Sholing v US Portsmouth.

Saturday, August 3
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Downton v Brockenhurst, Fareham v Bemerton HH, Hamworthy Utd v Totton & Eling, Newport IoW v Alresford Town, Winchester City v Moneyfields.
SWL Cup, first round: Blackfield & Langley v Laverstock & Ford, Bournemouth Poppies v Ringwood, New Milton v Andover Town, Romsey v Pewsey Vale, Stockbridge v Lymington Town, Verwood v Cowes Sports, Whitchurch v Horndean.
Division One: East Cowes Vics v Fleet Spurs, Hayling Utd v Tadley Calleva, Petersfield v Hythe & Dibden.

Tuesday, August 6
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Verwood, Bemerton HH v Bournemouth Poppies, Blackfield & Langley v Alresford, Downton v Horndean, Fareham v Hamworthy Utd, Folland Sports v Brockenhurst, Moneyfields v Lymington Town, Sholing v Romsey.

Wednesday, August 7
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Christchurch v Whitchurch, Fawley AFC v Winchester City.

Friday, August 9
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Folland Sports v Downton.

Saturday, August 10
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bournemouth Poppies v Sholing, Brockenhurst v Alresford, Hamworthy Utd v Bemerton HH, Horndean v Blackfield & Langley, Newport IoW v Fawley AFC, Romsey v Moneyfields, Verwood v Christchurch, Whitchurch v Lymington Town, Winchester City v AFC Portchester.
SWL Cup, first round: Fleet Spurs v Team Solent, Hayling Utd v Fareham, Totton & Eling v Petersfield.
Division One: Cowes Sports v Andover NS, Laverstock & Ford v US Portsmouth, Pewsey Vale v East Cowes Vics, Ringwood v Amesbury, Stockbridge v New Milton, Tadley Calleva v Hythe & Dibden.

SEE PAGE 40 FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS

STATE OF OUR NATION: Olympic sports health check a year on from London 2012 ...

ARCHERY: The sport's failure to secure any medals at London 2012 led to a 20 per cent drop in UK Sport funding to £3.1million for the 2016 cycle. Alison Williamson was the last British medallist, taking bronze at Athens 2004. Commonwealth Games gold medallist Nicky Hunt has a chance for Rio after switching to an Olympic discipline, while Sport England has agreed £2m in development funding.

ATHLETICS: UK Athletics hit its medal target at London 2012 leading to a 6.6 per cent funding increase to £26.8m. Outgoing head coach Peter Eriksson believes the emerging talent can see Britain's track and field athletes perform even better in Rio, saying: "The sport in general is in a better state than it has been, with some promising upcoming athletes. Everything is there for great success in the future."

BADMINTON: A poor performance at London 2012 saw badminton fail to meet any of its UK Sport targets and the result has been one of the biggest percentage drop in funding of any sport, down 20.6 per cent to £5.9m. No players in singles or doubles managed to finish in the top eight at London but Badminton England believes investment in grassroots will pay dividends in the future.

BASKETBALL: British Basketball earned a reprieve from UK Sport after initially losing all its £8.6m funding. Both the men and women were set a target of fifth to eighth place at London 2012, but they failed to qualify from their respective groups. After an appeal, UK Sport decided on a £7m award but warned it must fulfil "strict performance criteria" for the money to be released in the following three years.

BOXING: Boxing enjoyed a huge 44.5 per cent funding boost on the back of its successful Olympics, with an award from UK Sport of £13.8m. Flyweight Nicola Adams, winner of the first ever women's Olympic boxing gold, has said she is aiming to compete again in Rio.

CANOEING: Another London 2012 success story and another funding rise from UK Sport. Canoeing's two golds, a silver and a bronze saw their award rise 18 per cent to £19.1m. Performance director John Anderson said: "We exceeded our target, proving we are a sport that can deliver when it counts." Apart from the established names, teenage canoe slalomer Kimberley Woods is a junior European champion.

CYCLING: The sport was set a tough target for London of between six and 10 medals and delivered no fewer than 12. That led to its funding going up by 17.5 per cent to £30.6m. The retirements of Sir Chris Hoy and Victoria Pendleton mean, however, that some established medal winners need to be replace.

DIVING: Diving has Tom Daley, pictured right, to thank for its funding increase in the years up to Rio after his bronze in London meant the sport had just hit its UK Sport target. Diving's award went up 14.75 per cent to £7.5m and there are other hopefuls including double-world junior champion Jack Laugher.

EQUESTRIAN: A big rise in funding for equestrian followed its London triumphs, going up 33.6 per cent to £17.9m. Five medals in London was two more than the target and British Equestrian said: "This allocation enables the sport to continue to maximise its successes on the world, Olympic and Paralympic stages as well as helping to develop elite riders for future."

FENCING: Fencing failed to meet its target in London but nevertheless impressed UK Sport enough with its plans for Rio to secure a 22.5 per cent rise to £3.1m. The sport has also announced an ambitious plan to boost participation on the back of a £1.6m grassroots award from Sport England.

GYMNASTICS: The feats of Louis Smith and others made it British Gymnastics most successful ever Olympics, with four medals easily meeting UK Sport's minimum requirement of one. That has led to a 34 per cent increase in funding to £14.5m and with the likes of Max Whitlock - who won team bronze and pommel-horse bronze - in the running for Rio, the sport is looking in good shape at elite level.

HANDBALL: The British handball teams ran into difficulties even before the London Olympics and it was little surprise when it lost all its £2.92m funding at UK Sport's announcement in December. That decision is also likely to impact at grassroots level.

HOCKEY: Hockey just hit its London 2012 target of one medal after the British women took bronze while the men just missed out, finishing fourth. It meant that its funding was secured for Rio - with even a slight increase of 3.2 per cent to £15.5m. England Hockey is also receiving £12m in grassroots funding from Sport England to boost participation.

JUDO: Although judo hit its target as Gemma Gibbons and Karina Bryant both won medals, the sport has paid the price for being in some turmoil even before London 2012. Its elite funding was cut from £7.5m to £6.8m and the sport has to prove it has made changes to the way it is being run before the final three years of money are released.

MODERN PENTATHLON: Samantha Murray's silver in the final event of the London Olympics saw the sport hit its medal target and secure a 9.7 per cent funding increase to £6.9m, plus £900,000 grassroots funding from Sport England. "We are pleased with both awards. They demonstrate the confidence that UK Sport and Sport England have in what we are doing and commit to do in the future," said Pentathlon GB.

ROWING: A fantastic London 2012 saw rowing win nine medals, three more than its target - a result which saw its funding rise from £27.3m to £32.6m. "Our efforts will not let up as we explore all opportunities to maximise the legacy of London 2012 and bring our wonderful sport to the widest audience," said British Rowing.

SAILING: British sailing hit its tough target of five medals and has seen its funding go up 6.8 per cent to £24.5m. The sport also now has influence at the top - its former chairman Rod Carr is UK Sport's new chairman. "Sailing's Olympic award is broadly welcomed and will enable us to start implementing our plans for the Rio cycle," said performance director John Derbyshire.

SHOOTING: Peter Wilson's memorable gold medal saw shooting hit its medal target in the bullseye and win a funding rise of 22 per cent to £3m. Double Commonwealth champion Jen McIntosh will be pushing for medals in Rio.

SWIMMING: It has been a tough year for British Swimming - three medals at London 2012 was two below its minimum target of five, and as a result the sport suffered a funding cut from £25.1m to £21.4m, a 15 per cent drop. Performance director Michael Scott and head coach Dennis Pursley have both left the organisation. At grassroots level, Sport England's £10.5m annual award has been put on probation until swimming can convince the body its plans reserved to reverse a drop in participation are working.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING: Britain's synchronised swimmers did not win any medals at London but met their performance targets and as a result the sport saw its funding go up from £3.4m to £4.3m.

TABLE TENNIS: A disastrous year for table tennis saw the sport lose its £1.2m funding completely, and had an appeal rejected by UK Sport. This came despite British number one Paul Drinkhall achieving the UK Sport target of one 32nd-64th finish in London. "We are really surprised that table tennis, a sport with significant participation in Great Britain and one of the largest sports worldwide was not given the very small investment requested of £369,000 to cover two talented athletes," said Alex Murdoch, chairman of the British Table Tennis Federation.

TAEKWONDO: Two medals in London, including a gold for Jade Jones, saw the sport double its minimum target and be rewarded with a 42 per cent funding increase to £6.9m. The bronze medal won by Lutalo Muhammad also justified the decision to pick him for the Olympic team ahead of world number one Aaron Cook.

TRIATHLON: Alistair and Jonny Brownlee were both expected to win medals in London and they did not disappoint. The result saw UK Sport funding rise slightly from £5.3m to £5.5m. A Sport England award of £7.5m over the next four years represented an increase of 60 per cent in funding for an ambitious grassroots programme showing the sport is in good health.

VOLLEYBALL: Another casualty of a disappointing London Olympics saw the sport lose all its funding for the indoor game, with financial support of £514,000 awarded only to the women's beach volleyball team. British Volleyball Federation president Richard Callicott responded saying: "We could not be more disappointed that the phenomenally hard work and commitment of our athletes and coaches has been rewarded with the utter obliteration of the sport at elite level."

WATER POLO: Despite the British water polo teams failing to not win a game at London 2012 and missing their targets, it has seen funding increased from £2.9m to £4.5m - but targeted solely at the women's team.

WEIGHTLIFTING: The sport failed to meet its London 2012 target but even so saw its funding increased from £1.4m to £1.8m - some of this in the form of personal athlete awards for the Rio cycle. Teenager Zoe Smith, who finished 12th at London, remains a good medal hope for Rio.

WRESTLING: The sport not only failed to hit its London target but found itself embroiled in the 'plastic Brits' controversy of securing British passports for overseas competitors. Ukraine-born Olga Butkevych was Britain's only competitor at London, and she lost in her first match. UK Sport removed all the £1.4m funding, but there is grassroots investment of £850,000 from Sport England.

Hampshire Cricket

THE ROOT

Hants ace Vince desperate to emulate former Lions mate Joe

Simon Walter
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CRICKET REPORTER

JAMES Vince admits the sight of Joe Root opening England's batting during the Ashes has given him confidence.

Not so long ago, Vince and Root were vying for a place in the England Lions side. They played four games together, having also played ten matches alongside each other for England Under-19s.

Since then, Root has gone on to win eight Test caps but Vince remains determined to join his erstwhile team-mate in the full England side one day.

"It's great to see Joe doing well, he's done brilliantly and shown that any successful county player can go on and play for England," says the 22 year-old Hampshire batsman.

"It gives confidence to the other guys who have played in that age group. It shows it's not as far away as you might think."

Root and Vince regularly batted together in England 19s' top three and had similar records at that level.

But Vince has not been as successful for Lions, averaging 18 in his nine one-day appearances for England's A side (Root averaged 67.6 in five first-class Lions outings and 30.5 in 11 one-dayers).

While Root was celebrating with his England team-mates at Trent Bridge after last week's dramatic first Test, Vince provided a reminder of his talents with a match-winning 84 against Middlesex at Richmond in the Friends Life t20.

"A couple of winters ago we were fighting for a place, but since then Joe's performed consistently for Yorkshire and deserved to get a go," added Vince, who had been dropped from the Hampshire side against which Root scored his career-best 222 at The Ageas Bowl last July.

But despite twice being dismissed cheaply at Kent this week, Vince is enjoying his best LV County Championship season to date (568 runs at 43.7) and is on course to score 1,000 first-class runs in a season for the first time.

"My ultimate goal is to play for England and whether that comes or not I've got to keep putting consistent performances together for Hampshire," he said.

"When I was with the Lions I didn't score as many runs as I'd have liked so if I get another crack there I'd like to be consistent and get runs under my belt in that side.

"I've got to believe I'll do it otherwise I won't."

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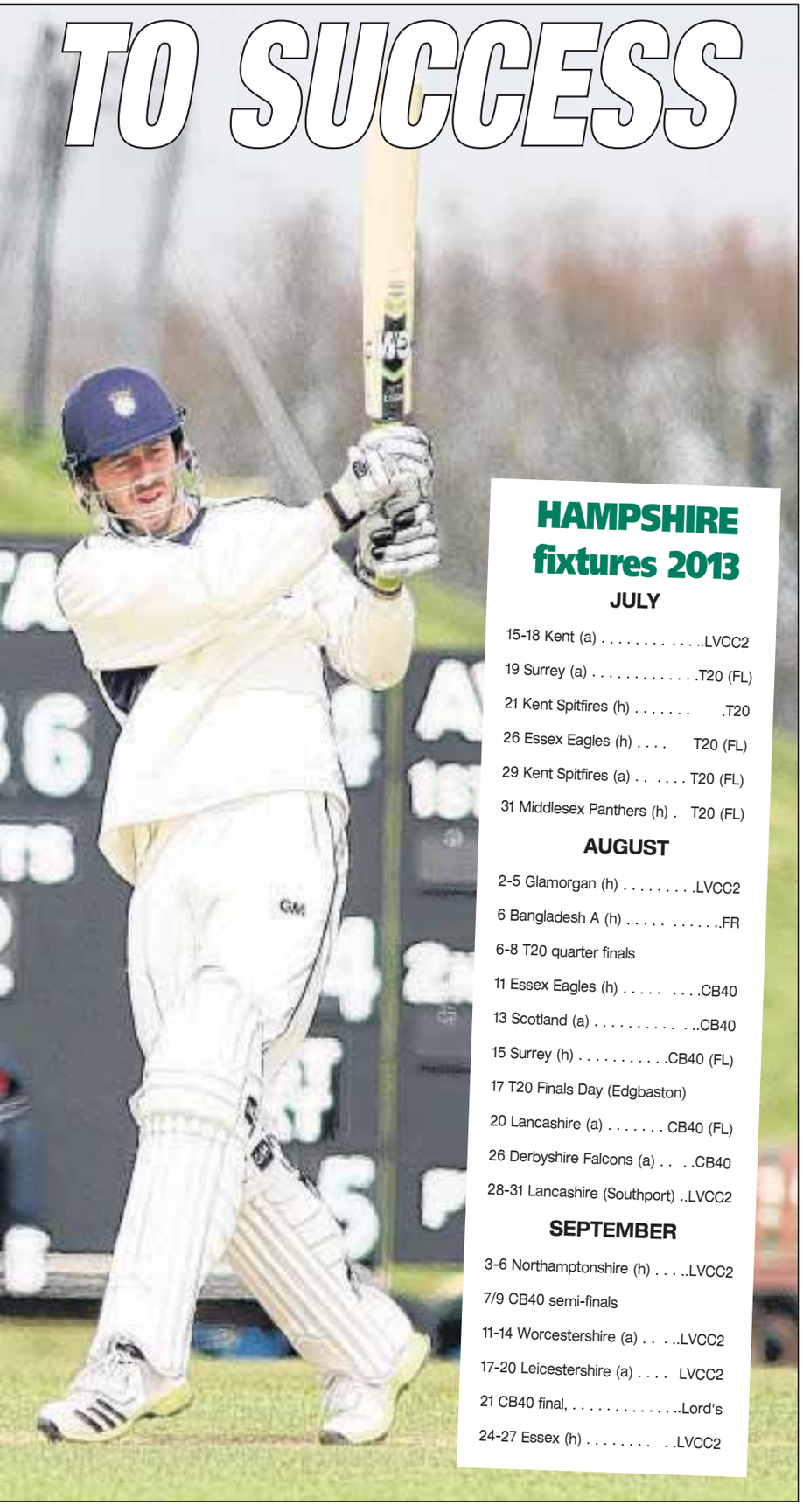
Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



HAMPSHIRE fixtures 2013

JULY

15-18 Kent (a) LVCC2
19 Surrey (a) . . . . . .T20 (FL)
21 Kent Spitfires (h) T20
26 Essex Eagles (h) . . . . T20 (FL)
29 Kent Spitfires (a) . . . . . T20 (FL)
31 Middlesex Panthers (h) . T20 (FL)

AUGUST

2-5 Glamorgan (h) LVCC2
6 Bangladesh A (h) . . . .FR
6-8 T20 quarter finals
11 Essex Eagles (h) CB40
13 Scotland (a) CB40
15 Surrey (h) . . . . . .CB40 (FL)
17 T20 Finals Day (Edgbaston)
20 Lancashire (a) . . . . . CB40 (FL)
26 Derbyshire Falcons (a) CB40
28-31 Lancashire (Southport) ..LVCC2

SEPTEMBER

3-6 Northamptonshire (h) LVCC2
7/9 CB40 semi-finals
11-14 Worcestershire (a) LVCC2
17-20 Leicestershire (a) LVCC2
21 CB40 final, ...Lord's
24-27 Essex (h) LVCC2

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TOM BARBER

TOM ALSOP

BOBBY PARKS

THREE LIONS: ENGLAND CALL-UP FOR HANTS TRIO

HAMPSHIRE academy director Bobby Parks is "staggeringly pleased" at the inclusion of THREE players in England's Under-19 squad, *writes SIMON WALTER.*

Left-arm quick Tom Barber and Under-17 star Tom Alsop, who both toured South Africa with England U19s in February, have been joined by academy wicketkeeper-batsman Lewis McManus in the 14-man squad for a tri-series against Bangladesh U19s and Pakistan U19s next month.

McManus, who Parks describes as "a wicketkeeper in the Michael Bates mould" and "a top-class batter", is set to make his international debut.

The 18-year-old from Dorset has already been rewarded for some excellent Southern Electric Premier League performances with two Second Eleven Championship appearances earlier this month.

Former Hampshire wicketkeeper Parks said: "I knew the two Toms were in the mix but we've been championing Lewis for the last 18 months and he's had a terrific season, both with the academy and the second team.

"They had a look at him a couple of weeks ago and he did the right things at the right time by scoring his second hundred of the season!"

Hampshire U17 wicketkeeper-batsman Alsop, who comes from Wiltshire, also scored a century in that SEPL match against Totton & Eling, having also impressed as a substitute for the first team in May.

Alsop played as a keeper in the last of his four appearances in South Africa, where he opened the batting, but with England U19 captain Ben Duckett also a wicketkeeper-batsman, he and McManus may play as specialist batsmen next month.

"If they don't make it as all-rounders they've both got their batting," said Parks.

"They came on our radar several years ago. Lewis is the more experienced, technical wicketkeeper of the two as Tom's keeping doesn't have a long history to it."

With his A levels behind him, 18 year-old Barber has returned to form in recent weeks, taking 3-37 against Lymington last Saturday.

"Tom has a big winter ahead when we'll be doing some technical work with him," said Parks, who was also encouraged by Joe Weatherley's recent England U17 call-up. "It reflects well on the work being done by everyone at the academy, including Tony Middleton and Charlie Freeston," he added.

Only Yorkshire have more players in next month's U19 squad, their five

LEWIS McMANUS

including 15-year-old pace bowler Matthew Fisher, who recently became the youngest player to feature in a competitive county match for more than a century when he played in a YB40 fixture against Gloucestershire.

ECB's National Performance Manager David Graveney, who chairs the U19s' selection panel, said: "This tri-series will enable our best young players to test themselves against opposition who are well versed in both playing and bowling spin, and will also provide important preparation for the squad ahead of next winter's ICC U19 World Cup in the UAE."

England play their first game of the tri-series at Sleaford CC, Lincolnshire on August 6 before moving to Grace Road, Leicester and New Road, Worcester. The final is at Trent Bridge on August 19.

England Under 19s squad: Duckett (captain, Northants), Alsop, Barber, McManus (Hampshire), Carver, Fisher, Rhodes, Shaw, Tattersall (Yorkshire), Sibley, Winslade (both Surrey), Finch (Sussex), Hammond (Gloucestershire), Higgins (Middlesex),

Local Cricket Spotlight

Mills is top of the charts

OLI Mills has roared to the top of the Southern Electric Premier League batting charts after scoring 140 – his second century of the season – against St Cross Symondians last weekend.

Mills, with 553 runs, is among six batsmen in the four divisions to have passed the 500-run mark – a milestone only two players achieved in a weather ravaged 2012 season.

Bashley's Kevin Nash and Lymington all-rounder Matt Metcalfe share the lead in the bowling stakes with 20 wickets each.

Leading positions -

Premier Division

Batting: Oli Mills (Ventnor) 553, James Taylor (Totton & Eling) 536, Lewis McManus (Academy) 516, * Alex Keath (Bournemouth) 511, Robert Gibson (Havant) 490, * Travis Head (Ventnor) 486, Richard Morris (Bashley Rydal) 445.

Bowling: Kevin Nash (Bashley Rydal) 20, Matt Metcalfe (Lymington) 20, Rob Franklin (SW) 19, Jordan Finney (St Cross Symondians) 19.

Wicketkeeping: Tom Morton (SW) 19, Lewis McManus (Academy) 18.

Division 1

Batting: Shu Chowdhury (Burridge) 540, Nick Park (New Milton) 468, Ben Thane (Hook & NB) 461, Jamie Richards (Liphook) 420, Derek Kenway (Burridge) 420, Geoff Dods (Burridge) 405.

Bowling: Geoff Dods (Burridge) 26, Chas Janczur (19), Ryan Covey (Liphook) 18, Glenn Williams (HNB) 18, Roscoe Thatti (Hambledon) 18, Matt Willett (Rowledge) 18.

Wicketkeeping: Tom Prodomo (New Milton) 19, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 16, Robbie Hadfield (Andover) 18.

Division 2

Batting: * Dan Payne (Sparsholt) 532, * Jamie Eccles (Hursley Park) 435, Dan Coombs (Basingstoke) 417, Stewart Magee (Paultons) 402.

Bowling: Matt Oliver (Hursley Park) 24, * Elijah Turriff-Smith (Calmore Sports) 23, Mike West (Calmore Sports) 21, Mark Lavelle (Calmore Sports) 21, Dave Pistorious (Basingstoke) 21, * Caleb Brookland (Langley Manor) 21.

Wicketkeeping: Lee Carroll (US) 20, Matt Branford (Hursley Park) 17.

Division 3

Batting: Matt Benfield (P & S) 405, Andy Galliers (Havant) 396, Tom Hockenhull (Fair Oak) 349, Dave Henderson (Portsmouth) 337, Tom Pearce (South Wilts) 330, Farshan Jemildar (Portsmouth) 317, Robert Jones (Podtsmouth) 303.

Bowling: Vikram Dawson (Portsmouth) 27, Paul Draper (South Wilts) 26, Phil Loat (Havant) 25, * Liam Duffield (Portsmouth) 24, Andy Mash (Fair Oak) 23.

Wicketkeeping: Alex Hammond (Portsmouth) 15, Sam Pittman (South Wilts) 12, Alex Bass (Fair Oak) 11.

No cup joy for our sides

THE door has slammed tight on local interest in the national cup competitions.

Havant exited the ECB club championship after a six-wicket defeat by a slick Ealing outfit, while Village Cup pair Hambledon and Rowledge were also beaten.

Robert Gibson and Chris Stone hit half-centuries in Havant's 240, but they were generally outclassed by a superior Ealing side.

Hambledon's profligate bowling – they conceded 43 extras, mainly wides – cost them dear against Windsor-based Wraysbury, whose 161 all out proved too many.

James Atkinson (3-25) and Cameron Prentice (3-38) shared six wickets, but only James Scutt (34) and Dominic Humphries (33) made their mark in Hambledon's 140 all out.

Chris Yates (57) top scored in a Rowledge total of 206-8 – but Essex side Mistley, who included former Havant all-rounder Richard Pineo, won by four wickets.

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC PREMIER LEAGUE: Standing (left-right): James Cheek, Hugh Calloway, Alex Keath (Bournemouth), Adam Wilson, Rob Snell, Neil Westthorpe. Front: Travis Head, Jamie Miller, Mark Holmes, Marc-Antony Eysele, Oli Mills.

All square with Kuwait

HONOURS were shared in this week's "international" matches between the ECB Southern Electric Premier League and Kuwait, who play in a Pepsi World Cricket League Division 6 tournament in Jersey next week.

The SPL – with a helping hand from two Australians – beat the Gulf state by 24 runs in the opening 50-over at Newclose, ***writes MIKE VIMPANY.***

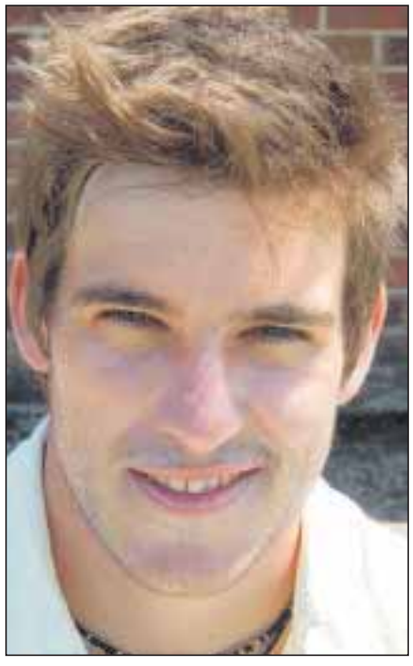
Bournemouth's Victorian all-rounder Alex Keath racked up 104 and shared in a century-plus opening stand with Oli Mills (59) before his Australian Academy teammate Travis Head weighed in with 70.

James Cheek (28) and Marc-Antony Eysele (23) chipped in before the Ventnor-raised Premier League XI collapsed in spectacular style, losing its last five wickets for 30 runs to finish with 322-9.

Led by Kashif Sharif, who hit a superb 131, Kuwait made 298-9 in reply, Head taking three wickets with his spin bowling.

Roles were reversed in game two at Havant, where Kuwait staged a remarkable recovery from being 40-5 (Steve Warner 3-18) to post 271 (Ryan Burl 3-68).

The SPL fell 36 runs short at 235 all out, with Oli Mills (53) scoring his second consecutive half-century.



South Wilts are cup favourites

SOUTH Wilts are heavy favourites to win the Southern Electric twenty20 Cup for the first time since 2006 when they face Burridge in next Wednesday's floodlight final at the Ageas Bowl, 7pm.

But that's doesn't mean they plan to take their Division 1 opponents lightly.

"To be honest, I don't know a lot about them," confessed South Wilts captain James Hayward.

"Like us, they have potential match winners – Derek Kenway, the former Hampshire opener – is one of them, and in t20 cricket that counts for a lot.

"I believe that if we play well, we have a good chance."

With a visit to Havant today, the five days will be season defining for South Wilts, who recovered from a batting collapse to beat New Milton in the semi-finals.

With the country in Ashes mode and Hampshire going well in t20 cricket, Wednesday's final has certainly created a lot of interest locally and Hayward says his side are looking forward to playing in front of a decent crowd.

"Playing under floodlights is very special – a unique opportunity for all 22 of us – and to have a possible 1,000 crowd making a noise and music playing will be fantastic and I'm sure everyone rise to the occasion," he continued.

Burridge are content to play the role of underdogs, but Kenway and in-form Cape Town all-rounder Geof Dods, pictured left, could be key players on the night.

SEE MONDAY'S ECHO FOR MORE LOCAL CRICKET NEWS

Local Cricket Spotlight

DROP BATTLE HOTTING UP...

SEVEN clubs are tottering uneasily in the Hampshire League County Division 1 danger zone.

With only one win from nine matches, Purbrook need a drastic upturn in fortunes in their remaining seven matches if they are to avoid the drop, while Midhurst are in total freefall – a seven-wicket defeat by Gosport Borough sending them down to second from bottom spot.

Rowledge II, Easton & Martyr Worthy and newly promoted pair Old Basing and Shrewton will vie with improving St Cross Symondians III to avoid those last three spots.

With students now returned from college and university, St Cross look a far stronger outfit and the eight-wicket win over a Hook & Newnham Basics side that had won its previous six games will send their confidence soaring.

They had HNB on the ropes at 70-6, but ended chasing 229-9 after Shane Brewer (58) marked his return to the fold with a half-century which spurred the lower-order.

As always, St Cross sprayed wides everywhere and the 60 extras they conceded proved Hook's top scorer.

STAR PAIR: St Cross's run duo Chris Rose and James Burridge after their successful run chase against Hook.

RUN CHASE

Chris Rose (82) and James Burridge (97 not out) underpinned the run chase – 'Budgie' being left high and dry three short of his century when Steve Berryman finished the game with a succession of fours.

Shrewton, who lie immediately below St Cross in the table, were promoted as CD2 runners-up behind Ventnor II last season.

But they and Old Basing, who also came up, are looking anxiously over their shoulders.

A 96-run defeat by Fareham & Crofton dropped them into the bottom six – the hosts' success being built around a century third-wicket partnership between Shaun Baker (85) and Tom Kent (61).

Baker, right, is better known in Fareham sporting circles as the town hockey club coach and, despite not having picked up a cricket bat in two years, his hand/eye coordination is still very much in evidence.

A past South Africa Under-21 hockey international, Baker top scored in Fareham's 227 – a total Shrewton (131) never threatened.

Spin pair Gary Wylde (3-19) and Ben Kissane (3-39) shared six of the wickets.

Old Basing went down by 53 runs at Alton II, for whom Alex Hammond (67), Lee Painter (60) and Jon Dew (52) all made half-centuries.

A total of 270-9 proved beyond OB, who were dismissed for 217 – Dan Belcher (59) and Dan Turner (57) hitting fifties, and teenager Dan Scott (3-26) and Toby Salmon (3-38) dong the damage.

Easton & Martyr Worthy, away to Purbrook today, suffered a second consecutive defeat when Ryde beat them by three wickets.

Ben Gregory (4-30) and teenager Harry Collier (3-30) shone as EMW were bowled out for 190 (Jordan Banks 34), but it needed an unbeaten 67 from Robert Hobbs to guide the islanders to victory.

With visitors Lymington creaking at 164-8, Rowledge II were optimistic of a third win.

But once Simon Naylor started to hit out, the dreams of little Ben Wish were shattered.

It was far too hot for Naylor to run singles, so he unleashed a volley of fours and sixes – five maximums and ten boundaries – smashing 70 of his 77 not out across the rope.

Lymington posted 257-8 – and then took the last SEVEN Rowledge wickets for NINE runs – the hosts crumbling to 158 all out against six-wicket Martin Gregory.

Midhurst and Purbrook look hot favourites for the drop.

The West Sussex outfit, whose Cowdray Park ground is arguably the most pleasant setting in the entire HCL, were dismissed for 153 by Gosport Borough.

But they hit back to take three cheap Borough wickets before Michael Jenkins (67) and Andy Tiddy (32) completed the task.

Purbrook went down by seven wickets to Ellingham, who went into today's 11th round of matches a solitary point behind Waterlooville.

A 158-run opening partnership between Matt Vail (87) and Jamie McPherson (51) paved the way to Ellingham overhauling Purbrook's 228 at Picket Post.

Jack Cunningham (48), Josh McCoy (31) and Aaron Dean (32) scored almost half of Purbrook's runs, while Aaron Barker (4-41) and Vail (3-35) took the Ellingham wickets.

South African run machine Byron Haycock suffered a rare failure with the bat, but his duck didn't prevent Waterlooville from posting a healthy 218-7 against Ventnor II at Steephill.

David Howe (61) and Alex Shephard (47) shone in middle-order before County Division 1 top wicket-taker Sam Hillman (3-22) ripped through Ventnor's top order as the Islanders fell to 83-8 and an eventual 133 all out (Kevin Cooper 28).

Locks Heath emerged victorious in the other CD1 match, restricting Portchester to 184-8 and knocking off the runs, with Alex Richardson making 85.

Star Ben hits 255

BURGHCLERE batsman Ben Lawrence produced the performance of the season on Saturday, smashing his way to an unbeaten 255 as his side beat Thruxton by 144 runs in Hampshire League Regional Division Two North.

Lawrence batted for 38 overs and hit numerous boundaries during his incredible club record innings. His biggest partnership came with Kevin O'Brien, the pair putting on 153 with O'Brien contributing 38.

Burghclere eventually made an amazing 386-5 from their 42 overs and while Thruxton put up a decent fight, they were only able to make 242-6 in reply.

Duo ready for final

BASHLEY (Rydal) captain Richard Morris and his St Cross Symondians counterpart Richard Logan are set to play in next month's Minor Counties Championship 50-over Cup final.

The pair play lead roles for Berkshire who, with the aid of 49 from Morris, beat Northumberland by five wickets at Finchampstead to tee up a cup final meeting against Shropshire at Wormsley on August 28.

Karl Turner (52), who had a brief spell with Toton & Eling two seasons ago, top scored in Northumberland's 224 all out.

B&NH in cup finale

PREMIER Division 2 leaders Basingstoke & North Hants have the chance to win their first silverware of the season when they defend the Aylward Cup against Eversley at Hartley Wintney on Tuesday, 6pm.

The Guy Jewell Cup, played on Basingstoke's historic May's Bounty ground, has reached the quarter-final stage, with the draw: Old Basing v Yateley, Basingstoke & North Hants v Rotherfield Park, Basingstoke Hockey Club v Hartley Wintney or Chawton, Eversley v Hook & Newnham Basics.

The final is at May's Bounty on Bank Holiday Sunday, August 25.

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"If it wasn't for golf I would be selling hot dogs on the beach but I have golf and I can compete and win. I am looking forward to the future and maybe at 55 I will go and sell some hot dogs at Herolds Bay" - **Open champion Ernie Els outlines his plans for life beyond golf.**

"No, there's none - I wouldn't expect any player to walk" - **England captain Alastair Cook confirms he will be giving his players orders to walk following the Stuart Broad controversy**.

"I think the height was acceptable, probably the lowest I'd go home with and not cry myself to sleep. I need to jump higher than that though" - **Olympic bronze medallist high jumper Robbie Grabarz not entirely thrilled with his winning clearance of 2.28 metres at the Sainsbury's British Championships in Birmingham.**

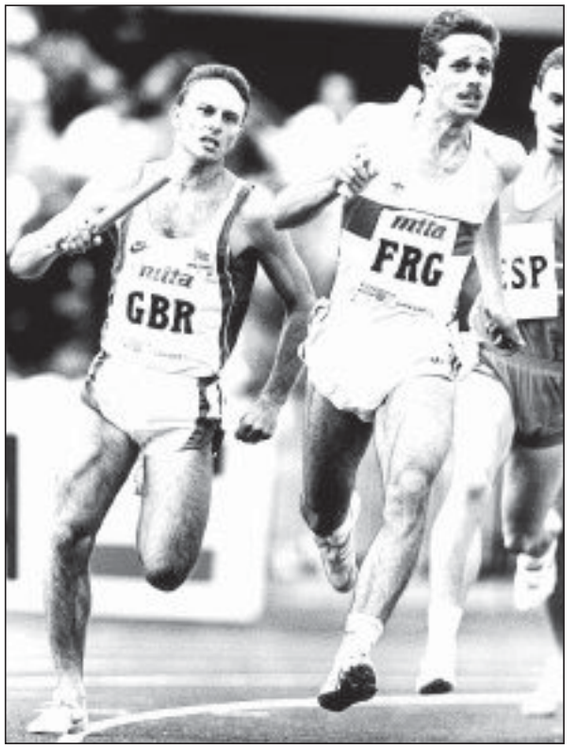
JUBILANT: James Anderson and England celebrate winning the first Ashes Test.

"I have a faint Hot-Spot and I have audio. You may change your decision and raise your finger" - **third umpire Marais Erasmus' instructions to on-field colleague Aleem Dar, as reported by the BBC's Test Match Special commentator Jonathan Agnew, as Brad Haddin is given out on review to give England victory in the first Ashes Test at Trent Bridge.**

"Jimmy was outstanding. He always wants one more over - I think 13 was probably quite a lot in that first hour!" - **England captain Alastair Cook hails Jimmy Anderson's Herculean effort on the final morning at Trent Bridge.**

"The DRS has improved the decision-making process. Both sides have the same issues. We've got to get better at using it, basically" - **Australia coach Darren Lehmann refuses to blame the review system.**

PROMOTING YOUTH SPORT: Todd Bennett with junior members of Romsey Hockey Club, April 2009.



FLASHBACK: Todd Bennett pictured in 1989.

FAREWELL

TODD Bennett was a family man who devoted his life to athletics.

The 51-year-old passed away in his home in the New Forest after losing his six-month battle against cancer this week, sending the athletics world into mourning, ***writes PETER HOWARD.***

From 2008 until 2010, I worked with the former 400m indoor record holder on Team Super Schools, his joint venture with Olympic gold medallist Darren Campbell.

The idea was to take Team GB athletes into schools around the country to give talks and inspire children to keep active with the intention of visiting 2012 schools by the time the London Olympics started.

Todd and his wife Vanessa ran the business from their family home, where they made it their mission to inspire and motivate children to take part in sport.

With 12-hour days travelling to different schools from Cambridgeshire to Birmingham, Todd would then go straight to Southampton Sports Centre to train his coaching group.

This epitomised his devotion to athletics.

I spent many days with Todd, but he never really spoke about his incredible sporting achievements.

Instead, his focus was on moulding young athletes, including his son Aaron and daughter Daena.

It used to be teachers from the schools we visited who would parade Todd to children and talk about his World Indoor 400m record and winning medals in the 400m and 4 x 400m relays at the Olympics, Commonwealth

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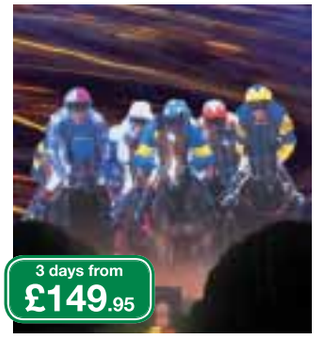

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FLASHBACK: Todd Bennett gives an athletics demonstration at The Dell in October 1986.

TO A GREAT MAN

Games and European Championships.

During my time as assistant to Todd, I met athletes like Chris Tomlinson, Larry Achike and Christian Malcolm, who all spoke of their huge respect for the former Olympian.

I will always remember him as a man who was constantly on the move, and someone that was modest about his achievements.

He has left a huge legacy behind him, not only from his coaching groups, but from the schools where at times he would put around 3,000 children through circuit activities in a day.

I visited around 400 hundred schools in two years with Todd. Some of them were in the Cotswolds with fewer than 50 students, others were inner city schools with 2,000 pupils.

There were no exceptions.

Each school were treated with the same enthusiasm with Todd and Team Super Schools reaching out to thousands of children of all ages.

I have no doubt Todd introduced Olympic stars of the future to sport.

His death is a massive loss to the athletics community and it has shown with hundreds of people taking to social networking site twitter to pay tribute to him this week.

Campbell, Tomlinson, Kris Akabusi and the whole of Team GB tweeted, along with the likes of Linford Christie and Paula Radcliffe.

But it was his son, Aaron, who gave the most fitting farewell.

"Todd Bennett crossed his final finish line.. Cancer one of the few to beat him. Went out battling. Best father to wish for #sleeptight."

Peter Howard is spending three months work experience on the Southern Daily Echo sports desk, after graduating from Southampton Solent University.

MEDAL WINNER: Todd Bennett with his European indoor gold medal, 1985.

Email your sports stories to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"This situation is clear. Nothing is a secret anymore. The official bid is just about a certain amount of money. We want the player. We made the bid and now we have nothing more to say. Now it is up to Manchester United" - **Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho puts the ball in Manchester United's court over their Wayne Rooney bid.**

"Crazy, aren't I? I'm enjoying it just as much as I did 20 years ago. It's as simple as that. Every year is a bonus to me. Take last year: winning the league, that feeling you have after the hard work you put in. Winning that trophy makes it all worthwhile" - **Ryan Giggs admits that people may doubt his sanity as he carries on playing at 39.**

"Apparently David Cameron had tweeted me after my win but I didn't see it, so the first thing I did when he sat down was apologise for not replying. He said my win gave him his first line to Barack Obama at the G8 summit" - **Hampshire's Justin Rose had to apologise to some VIPs during the Wimbledon final after accidentally snubbing the Prime Minster's congratulation on winning the US Open.**

"It has been cleaned and buffed and was very shiny when I gave it back. Not as much buffing was required as in

GETTING OLDER: Ernie Els.

2003. We are getting a little older. It did very similar travels but a little different juice was drunk out of the jug" - **Age has mellowed Ernie Els as he prepares to return the Claret Jug to the R&A.**

"This is not a war we can afford to lose, and it is important for any athlete to know that if they want to risk cheating that they are going to get caught" - **Seb Coe after Tyson Gay and Asafa Powell failed drug tests.**

"We come for the golf course. To think we would not come to a course as wonderful as this (Muirfield) is something we could not countenance. It's like taking the Boat Race to the Humber if you did not like (mayor of London) Boris (Johnson's) policies" - **the R&A's chief executive Peter Dawson defends the organisation's decision to stage the Open at Muirfield in spite of the course not allowing women members.**

"If Celtic can beat Barcelona, why can't Cliftonville beat Celtic?" - **Cliftonville defender Jamie McGovern defender is hopeful of his side's chances in the first leg of their Champions League qualifier against the Scottish champions.**

"If we were to win the game it would be a tremendous feat. If we were to get a draw it would be a credible result. But the last time I looked we were 11 or 12-1 (to win) and you show me a poor bookmaker" - **Cliftonville boss Tommy Breslin is less optimistic.**

Adam Rant

This week's big talking points with **Adam Leitch**

Froome's problems

POOR old Chris Froome.

At the time of writing he looks set to win the Tour de France, but not the hearts of the nation in the way Bradley Wiggins did, and he's also been questioned as to whether he has been doping.

On the first point, Froome, pictured below, is barely British, given he was born abroad, largely raised abroad, talks with a foreign accent and lives in Monaco. It's not a particularly convincing heritage, unlike Wiggins.

He's a more exciting rider than Wiggins but the majority of the British public don't know the first thing about cycling and so they merely see the man and the personality, and Wiggins is undoubtedly a more exciting and engaging character off the bike.

On the doping point, Froome is just unfortunate to be in a sport that has been so beset by these problems, and winning the Tour in a week when two top sprinters have tested positive too.

He is tarnished by association with excellence.

You can fully understand his anger, but it comes with the territory these days.

Don't blame the press, or the public, blame the riders that came before you.

Umpire's call or not

THE ICC needs to take a serious look at the decision review system in cricket.

Adam Rant has been pointing out an anomaly in the system for some time and it was proved again recently.

It is ludicrous to have an umpire's call when at least half the ball is clearly hitting the stumps in an lbw shout.

If the technology is good enough to use then you have to trust it is correct within half a ball's width.

Less than that perhaps should be umpire's call still, but to see a decision get reviewed, and with all the replays basically proving it is definitely out, and yet it is still be given not out by the umpires just undermines the use of the technology in the first place.

World Cup 2022 in a real mess...

CHANGE OF HEART: FIFA president Sepp Blatter has said the 2022 World Cup in Qatar could be played in the winter.

FIFA'S admittance that they could move the 2022 World Cup in Qatar to the winter is surely an unwitting admittance of some sort that their decision to play the tournament there was a shambles in the first place.

Adam Rant is all for taking these major events to places that you might not always expect them to be played.

That is part of the way you grow the sport and spread the word across the globe.

But you also need to be sensible and it seems, in terms of this decision, all common sense went out of the window.

The weather conditions in Qatar are clearly unsuitable for hosting the tournament in its regular summer slot.

It doesn't matter whether you have the ludicrous prospect of air conditioned stadiums or not, there is also the training and the general day to day living of not only the players but the fans and media alike to take into consideration.

Clearly temperatures that could reach 50C are totally unworkable.

Despite that Qatar was handed the tournament in somewhat controversial circumstances.

Adam Rant recently visited Qatar and his initial observations were that it wasn't set up for such a major tournament.

Aside from the major city of Doha, there isn't too much other than desert in large swathes of the country.

Money might not be a problem, but a huge infrastructure project is going to have to take place to build not only the stadiums but most other things required.

The chances of there being any lasting legacy to the country seem slim as there is no demand for these facilities and so they will surely either get pulled down or gather dust when the month long bandwagon has rolled out of town.

Now FIFA are suggesting that the tournament should be held in the winter, to try and mitigate the temperature problem.

The issue with that of course is that all of the major European leagues are not geared up for it, and also nobody wants summer rather than winter domestic football either.

It is the common sense way to host a World Cup in such a country, but the common sense approach would have been to actually think about that in advance and not award it to somewhere so hot.

Maybe FIFA knew the outcry a winter switch might provoke and so thought the best thing to do was to award Qatar the World Cup and then, when it seemed the decision was too far gone to do much about, change the timing.

Whatever the case they have made a mistake.

It is unfortunate for Qatar and countries that have to deal with these summer temperatures, but it's just the card that fate has dealt them, in the same way it has made them amongst the richest oil producing nations on the planet.

You wouldn't host the Winter Olympics somewhere you thought wouldn't have the cold conditions you need, so why play the World Cup in a similarly unsuitable location?

It really does feel like another FIFA shambles.

Moyes making his mark at United

YOU have to wonder whether the Wayne Rooney saga at Manchester United is entirely as it seems, or a way of David Moyes stamping his authority on the club.

We all know that Moyes has the toughest act to follow in football management as he takes over from Sir Alex Ferguson.

Part of Ferguson's trademark at United was his ability to always appear bigger than any one player at Old Trafford.

Time and again he exercised and proved his authority by drumming out superstar names in situations many outsiders would have thought unthinkable.

It all helped him maintain his aura of total control, and that in turn undoubtedly helped his management of these ultra rich and young superstar players.

You could wonder whether that might change with Ferguson gone and Moyes now in – not that the former Everton man is considered a light touch within the game, just that he isn't Ferguson.

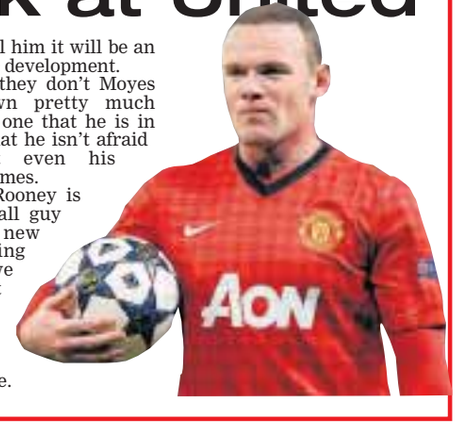
And so within weeks of him taking over we have the prospect of the club's highest profile player, Rooney, potentially leaving, word in the press being that his camp considers Moyes is squeezing him out.

Rooney is now second fiddle to Robin van Persie, but you would still have imagined United would want him there. Van Persie is certainly not guaranteed to be fit and firing for every game of a long domestic and European season.

Yet it seems Rooney has been somewhat undermined by the comment that he is effectively a back-up and if United sell him it will be an intriguing development.

Even if they don't Moyes has shown pretty much from day one that he is in charge, that he isn't afraid to upset even his biggest names.

Maybe Rooney is just the fall guy for the new man trying to prove he's not that much different from the old one.



Horse Racing

NEWBURY — Today's runners

Going: Good to Firm

1.35 RACING UK PROFITS ALL RETURNED TO RACING CONDITIONS STAKES (STR) (CLASS 4). £7,500 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £4,669.

1 1 **CRICKLEWOOD GREEN (USA) (20) (D)** R Hannon 8 13 . . **P Dobbs 3**
2 2102 **LANARK (IRE) (7) (BF)** M Johnston 8 13 . . . . . **S De Sousa 5**
3 03105 **ROSSO CORSA (7)** M Channon 8 13 . . . . . **M Lane 1**
4 05 **SHEPHERD GATE (USA) (21)** J S Moore 8 10 . . . . . **L Jones 2**
5 41 **GOLD TOP (IRE) (25) (CD)** R Hannon 8 8 . . . . . **R Hughes 4**

BETTING: 2-1 Gold Top, 9-4 Lanark, 3-1 Rosso Corsa, 6-1 Cricklewood Green, 14-1 Shepherd Gate.

2.05 CHOOSE E.B.F. NOMINATED' FILLIES HANDICAP (STR) (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value £12,450.

1 63-003 **ARSAADI (IRE) (31) (C)** W Haggas 4 10 0 . . . . . **L Jones 2**
2 230100 **GALICIAN (7) (D)** M Johnston 4 9 7 . . . . . **S De Sousa 8**
3 10-020 **FORGIVE (11) (D)** R Hannon 4 9 5 . . . . . **R Hughes 7**
4 -14311 **ODDYSEY (IRE) (9) (D)** M Dods 4 9 3 . . . . . **L Topliss 4**
5 040040 **SORELLA BELLA (IRE) (8) (D)** M Channon 3 9 1 . . . . . **M Lane 3**
6 21226- **SUBTLE KNIFE (269)** G Bravery 4 8 12 . . . . . **C Catlin 6**
7 001363 **ALICE'S DANCER (IRE) (13)** W Muir 4 8 11 . . . . . **W Carson 1**
8 604320 **QUEEN AGGIE (IRE) (2)** P Evans 3 8 2 . . . . . **DOUBTFUL 5**

BETTING: 6-4 Arsaadi, 3-1 Oddysey, 13-2 Forgive, 7-1 Subtle Knife, 8-1 Alice's Dancer, 14-1 Sorella Bella, Galician.

2.40 SHARPS BREWERY STEVENTON STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS 1). £37,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m 2f Penalty Value £20,983.

1 2110-0 **BLACK SPIRIT (USA) (15) (C)(D)** C Cox 6 9 4 . . . . . **A Kirby 5**
2 1-5506 **DICK DOUGHTYWYLIE (15) (D)** J Gosden 5 9 4 . . . . . **W Buick 4**
3 311-50 **MOBACO (FR) (29) (D)** L Cumani 4 9 4 . . . . . **R Hughes 3**
4 5110/0 **OCEAN WAR (29) (D)** S Bin Suroor 5 9 4 . . . . . **P Hanagan 6**
5 2-1220 **ROYAL EMPIRE (IRE) (140) (BF)** S Bin Suroor 4 9 4 . . **S De Sousa 1**
6 123-64 **AL WAAB (IRE) (51)** Lady Cecil 3 8 8 . . . . . **N Callan 2**

BETTING: 13-8 Royal Empire, 9-2 Ocean War, 5-1 Al Waab, 6-1 Black Spirit, 7-1 Dick Doughtywylie, Mobaco.

3.15 GT EXHIBITIONS HACKWOOD STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS 1). £60,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £34,026.

1 12-214 **BETTOLLE (ITY) (62) (D)** M Botti 4 9 5 . . . . . **A Kirby 4**
2 6-4110 **HAMZA (IRE) (7) (D)** K Ryan 4 9 4 . . . . . **N Callan 1**
3 -14262 **HEERAAT (IRE) (7) (C)(D)(BF)** W Haggas 4 9 4 . . . . . **P Hanagan 5**
4 6-3233 **KRYPTON FACTOR (28) (D)** F Nass (BAH) 5 9 4 . . . . . **L Morris 6**
5 -45523 **SHAMAAL NIBRAS (USA) (29) (D)** I Mohammed 4 9 4 . . . . **W Buick 2**
6 1-1304 **NINJAGO (8) (D)** R Hannon 3 8 13 . . . . . **R Hughes 3**

BETTING: 9-4 Krypton Factor, 5-2 Heeraat, 3-1 Hamza, 8-1 Ninjago, 10-1 Bettolle, 12-1 Shamaal Nibras.

3.50 WEATHERBYS SUPER SPRINT (CLASS 2). £250,000 added 2YO only 5f Penalty Value £122,925.

1 333121 **MERITOCRACY (IRE) (8) (D)** P Cole 9 1 . . . . . **C Catlin 17**
2 32 **MORNING POST (18) (BF)** K Ryan 9 1 . . . . . **P Makin 15**
3 1330 **HAIKBIDIAC (IRE) (32) (D)** W Haggas 8 12 . . . . . **L Jones 4**
4 422 **PROCLAMATIONOFWAR (35)** K Ryan 8 12 . . . . . **N Callan 16**
5 2341 **WEISSE SOCKEN (IRE) (7) (D)** R Beckett 8 11 . . . . . **W Buick 3**
6 0214 **BIOGRAPHY (20) (D)** R Hannon 8 10 . . . . . **R Hughes 23**
7 121 **PENIAPHOBIA (IRE) (32) (D)** R Fahey 8 8 . . . . . **P Hanagan 10**
8 225320 **URBAN DREAMER (IRE) (7)** B Millman 8 8 . . . . . **D Sweeney 12**
9 10 **DER BLAUE REITER (IRE) (32) (D)** G Baker 8 7 . . . . . **T Durcan 8**
10 3 **FOXY CLARETS (IRE) (23)** R Fahey 8 7 . . . . . **W Carson 5**
11 4 **GYM SHOES (7)** R Fahey 8 6 . . . . . **R Mullen 2**
12 1 **BIRD OF LIGHT (IRE) (75) (D)** R Hannon 8 5 . . . . . **H Bentley 21**
13 432313 **DANFAZI (IRE) (14) (D)** Kristin Stubbs 8 5 . . . . . **John Fahy 7**
14 10 **ECCLESTON (30) (D)** R Fahey 8 4 . . . . . **B McHugh 13**
15 41 **YORKSHIRE RELISH (IRE) (36)** K Ryan 8 3 . . . . . **S De Sousa 14**
16 14443 **ORTON PARK (IRE) (21) (D)** T B Coles 8 2 . . . . . **J McDonald 20**
17 31421 **LEXINGTON ROSE (35) (D)** B Smart 8 1 . . . . . **R Ffrench 19**
18 121 **LILBOURNE LASS (35) (D)** R Hannon 8 1 . . . . . **J Quinn 1**
19 352221 **MEMORY STYX (7) (D)** M Channon 8 1 . . . . . **K O'Neill 22**
20 1310 **ALUTIQ (IRE) (31) (CD)** Eve J-Houghton 8 0 . . . . . **Cathy Gannon 18**
21 031522 **BLOCKADE (IRE) (15) (D)(BF)** J Tate 8 0 . . . . . **L Morris 6**
22 51 **HOPEFILLY (IRE) (14) (D)** Ed Walker 8 0 . . . . . **M Lane 9**
23 25 **KHALICE (23)** R Fahey 8 0 . . . . . **R Thomas 25**
24 31003U **KODAFINE (IRE) (10) (D)** P Evans 8 0 . . . . . **N Garbutt 11**
25 61 **OASIS TOWN (24) (D)** K Ryan 8 0 . . . . . **D Probert 24**

BETTING: 9-2 Lilbourne Lass, 6-1 Alutiq, 7-1 Peniaphobia, 10-1 Lexington Rose, Eccleston, 12-1 Meritocracy, 14-1 Haikbidiac, Hopefilly, 16-1 others.

4.25 LUCK GREAYER BLOODSTOCK SHIPPING CONDITIONS STAKES (STR) (CLASS 3). £11,500 added 3YO only 7f Penalty Value £7,159.

1 1-1013 **HARTWRIGHT (53) (BF)** M Bell 8 12 . . . . . **R Hughes 2**
2 -46102 **JALAA (IRE) (16)** R Hannon 8 12 . . . . . **P Hanagan 1**
3 4-125 **MUSIC MASTER (31) (D)** H Candy 8 9 . . . . . **D Sweeney 3**
4 035-00 **THE GOLD CHEONGSAM (IRE) (31) (D)** J Noseda 8 7 . . **W Buick 4**
5 50-230 **PEARL SEA (IRE) (31)** D Brown 8 4 . . . . . **H Bentley 5**

BETTING: 5-4 Music Master, 3-1 The Gold Cheongsam, 4-1 Jalaa, 5-1 Pearl Sea, 20-1 Hartwright.

5.00 OAKLEY COACHBUILDERS HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £7,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £4,852.

1 0-3002 **SULA TWO (20) (C)** R Hodges 6 9 7 . . . . . **P Prince (5) 2**
2 -00166 **ROCKTHERUNWAY (IRE) (22)** M Dods 4 9 6 . . . . . **L Topliss 3**
3 0-6200 **COSIMO DE MEDICI (17) (D)** H Morrison 6 9 5 . . . . . **W Buick 5**
4 32-112 **OUR FOLLY (43) (D)(BF)** W Kittow 5 9 1 . . . . . **N Callan 7**
5 6-0234 **DOUBLE CEE (17)** W Greatrex 4 8 13 . . . . . **R Hughes 8**
6 -43312 **HI NOTE (3) (D)(BF)** Miss S West 5 8 10 . . . . . **D Sweeney 6**
7 /04340 **KAYEF (GER) (27)** M Scudamore 6 8 7 . . . . . **P Hanagan 1**
8 0/5664 **ESHTYAAQ (18)** P Evans 6 8 6 . . . . . **Cathy Gannon 4**

BETTING: 3-1 Our Folly, 9-2 Sula Two, 5-1 Hi Note, Double Cee, 6-1 Cosimo De Medici, 8-1 Rocktherunway, 12-1 Kayef, 14-1 Eshtyaaq.

HAYDOCK — Today's runners

Going: Good to Firm

6.25 TUSCAR UTILITIES & CIVIL ENGINEERING LTD NURSERY (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 2YO only 5f Penalty Value £2,911.

1 610401 **ZALZILAH (4) (D)** J Tate 9 13(6ex) . . . . . **P Mulrennan 1**
2 16313 **INNOCENTLY (IRE) (8) (D)** D O'Meara 9 1 . . . . . **Julie Burke (3) 3**
3 5623 **EVIE JAY (IRE) (3)** P Green 9 0 . . . . . **R Da Silva (3) 6**
4 450 **SHELLEY'S CHOICE (IRE) (27)** T Dascombe 8 7 . . . . . **R Kingscote 4**
5 034 **EMILY DAVISON (IRE) (24)** D C Griffiths 8 6 . . . . . **A Mullen 5**
6 0004 **RED FOREVER (28)** A Berry 8 0 . . . . . **P M Quinn 2**

BETTING: 11-10 Zalzilah, 3-1 Innocently, 13-2 Evie Jay, 15-2 Emily Davison, 10-1 Shelley's Choice, 16-1 Red Forever.

7.00 INSPIRED ENERGY HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 6f Penalty Value £5,175.

1 5-0506 **KIAMA BAY (IRE) (21)** R Fahey 7 9 7 . . . . . **B Hughes 5**
2 00-006 **ROCK A DOODLE DOO (IRE) (J36)** Miss S Hall 6 9 5 **P Mulrennan 6**
3 306455 **ROYAL PECULIAR (9)** M Appleby 5 9 5 . . . . . **A Mullen 1**
4 406210 **BOLLIN GRETA (8) (D)** T Easterby 8 9 3 . . . . . **D Fentiman 3**
5 0-0021 **MERCHANT OF DUBAI (36) (D)** J Goldie 8 9 2 . . . . . **G Lee 8**
6 2114-0 **JAWAAB (IRE) (J11) (C)** P Kirby 9 9 0 . . . . . **Eva Moscrop (7) 2**
7 011434 **HALLSTATT (IRE) (21) (D)** J Mackie 7 8 9 . . . . . **R Kingscote 7**
8 -25422 **ZENAFIRE (18)** A Hollinshead 4 8 4 . . . . . **P M Quinn 4**

BETTING: 3-1 Merchant Of Dubai, 4-1 Zenafire, 5-1 Bollin Greta, 6-1 Kiama Bay, 13-2 Rock A Doodle Doo, 8-1 Hallstatt, 10-1 Royal Peculiar, 12-1 Jawaab.

7.30 EXCALON LTD E.B.F. MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £2,911.

1 **ARCHIBALD THORBURN (IRE)** E McMahon 9 5 . . . . . **G Lee 7**
2 05 **ARISTOCRACY (7)** M Channon 9 5 . . . . . **S Hitchcott 5**
3 0 **ROCKIE ROAD (IRE) (5)** P Green 9 5 . . . . . **R Da Silva (3) 6**
4 **SILENT BULLET (IRE)** S Bin Suroor 9 5 . . . . . **D O'Neill 2**
5 **STRASSMAN** M Johnston 9 5 . . . . . **J Fanning 4**
6 06 **VEYA (USA) (15)** Ed Walker 9 5 . . . . . **R Kingscote 1**
7 00 **PAPARIMA (IRE) (26)** P Green 9 0 . . . . . **P Mulrennan 3**

BETTING: 2-1 Silent Bullet, 3-1 Strassman, 7-2 Archibald Thorburn, 11-2 Veya, 12-1 Aristocracy, 14-1 Rockie Road, 25-1 Paparima.

8.00 MEDIA Q LTD CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS 3). £12,500 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £8,086.

1 0-4045 **SET THE TREND (28) (CD)** D O'Meara 7 9 9 . . . . . **D Tudhope 2**
2 2300-0 **BANNOCK (IRE) (142)** S Bin Suroor 4 9 1 . . . . . **G Lee 3**
3 403604 **BIX (IRE) (18)** A Berry 3 8 11 . . . . . **J Hibberd (7) 4**
4 145-51 **MAGIC DESTINY (13) (C)(D)** Mrs K Burke 4 8 10 . . . . **R Kingscote 1**

BETTING: 1-5 Bannock, 13-2 Set The Trend, 8-1 Magic Destiny, 66-1 Bix.

8.30 MARKET AVENUE RACING HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO only 1m Penalty Value £2,911.

1 632122 **NURPUR (IRE) (19)** D O'Meara 9 7 . . . . . **D Tudhope 2**
2 015-0 **CARDMASTER (IRE) (94)** Eve J-Houghton 9 3 . . . . . **D O'Neill 8**
3 22320- **MADAME ELIZABETH (266)** A Hollinshead 9 3 . . . . . **G Lee 5**
4 104050 **WORLD RECORD (IRE) (14) (D)** P Green 9 2 . . . . . **L Morris 7**
5 035006 **FRASERBURGH (IRE) (12)** M Johnston 9 1 . . . . . **J Fanning 4**
6 634022 **JULLUNDAR (IRE) (9)** M Channon 9 0 . . . . . **S Hitchcott 3**
7 334454 **GABRIAL THE THUG (FR) (8)** R Fahey 8 12 . . . . . **P Mulrennan 6**
8 0-000 **SWITCHAROONEY (IRE) (19)** T Dascombe 8 10 . . . . . **R Kingscote 1**

BETTING: 2-1 Nurpur, 10-3 Jullundar, 11-2 Gabrial The Thug, 13-2 Madame Elizabeth, 8-1 Fraserburgh, 12-1 Switcharooney, 14-1 World Record, 16-1 Cardmaster.

9.00 STEWART AND WOODBRIDGE HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,911.

1 400005 **SHUKHOV (IRE) (15)** J F Levins 4 9 9 . . . . . **D Tudhope 4**
2 0-3121 **BIG THUNDER (9) (D)** Sir M Prescott 3 9 5 . . . . . **L Morris 5**
3 03-114 **TAJHEEZ (IRE) (22) (CD)(BF)** R Varian 3 9 4 . . . . . **D O'Neill 1**
4 0-4151 **BARTON BOUNTY (13) (D)** P Niven 6 8 12 . . . . . **G Lee 6**
5 032404 **ROYAL SEA (IRE) (7)** M Mullineaux 4 8 12 . . . . . **J Haynes (7) 3**
6 514600 **OFCOURSEWECAN (USA) (13) (D)** M Johnston 3 8 9 . . . **J Fanning 7**
7 -06163 **SMIRFY'S SILVER (107) (D)** M Mullineaux 9 8 9 . . . . **R Da Silva (3) 2**

BETTING: 6-5 Big Thunder, 11-4 Tajheez, 6-1 Barton Bounty, 10-1 Ofcourseweecan, 12-1 Shukhov, 16-1 Royal Sea, Smirfy's Silver.

NEWMARKET — Today's runners

Going: Good to Firm

1.50 POPTELECOM.CO.UK HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £45,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value £28,012.

1 020522 **ES QUE LOVE (IRE) (7) (D)** M Johnston 4 9 10 . . . . . **R L Moore 8**
2 100-06 **KINGLET (USA) (142) (C)(D)** S Bin Suroor 4 9 8 . . . . . **A Ajtebi 5**
3 111-40 **KITTEN ON THE RUN (USA) (30) (D)** L Cumani 3 8 13 . . . **K Fallon 4**
4 1-3234 **SNOWBOARDER (USA) (112) (D)** S Bin Suroor 3 8 13 **M Barzalona 1**
5 410-31 **SAM SHARP (USA) (35) (D)** I Williams 7 8 11 . . . . . **R Kingscote 3**
6 15-043 **TRAIL BLAZE (IRE) (21) (D)** K Ryan 4 8 9 . . . . . **Kirsty Milczarek 6**
7 505011 **ASKAUD (IRE) (14)** S Dixon 5 8 5 . . . . . **D E Egan (3) 2**
8 -10103 **SHEBEBI (USA) (14) (D)** M Johnston 3 8 5 . . . . . **M Dwyer 7**

BETTING: 3-1 Es Que Love, 9-2 Snowboarder, 5-1 Sam Sharp, 6-1 Askaud, 13-2 Shebebi, 8-1 Kinglet, Kitten On The Run, 12-1 Trail Blaze.

2.25 NEWSELLS PARK STUD STAKES (REGISTERED AS APHRODITE STAKES) (FILLIES' LISTED) (CLASS 1). £40,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £22,684.

1 1212-1 **LA ARENOSA (IRE) (33)** S Bin Suroor 4 9 5 . . . . . **M Barzalona 6**
2 103-33 **BETWEEN US (27) (D)** Sir M Prescott 4 9 2 . . . . . **R Kingscote 3**
3 000-42 **BOLIVIA (GER) (15)** Mrs L Wadham 7 9 2 . . . . . **F Tylicki 1**
4 13-023 **SOUND HEARTS (USA) (22)** R Varian 4 9 2 . . . . . **L Dettori 4**
5 -21206 **GERTRUDE VERSED (30)** J Gosden 3 8 4 . . . . . **N Mackay 7**
6 00 **SOHO DANCER (37)** J Toller 3 8 4 . . . . . **Kirsty Milczarek 5**
7 0-15 **WAILA (30)** Sir M Stoute 3 8 4 . . . . . **R L Moore 2**
8 433 **WHIPPY CREAM (IRE) (55)** M Botti 3 8 4 . . . . . **D E Egan 8**

BETTING: 9-4 Waila, 3-1 La Arenosa, 7-2 Sound Hearts, 6-1 Whippy Cream, 8-1 Gertrude Versed, 16-1 Bolivia, 20-1 Between Us, 33-1 Soho Dancer.

3.05 LETTERGOLD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 4). £6,000 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £3,881.

1 **RUDI FIVE ONE (FR)** R Eddery 9 5 . . . . . **N Mackay 2**
2 2 **SAFETY CHECK (IRE) (43)** S Bin Suroor 9 5 . . . . . **M Barzalona 3**
3 33 **SHOWPIECE (28) (BF)** R Hannon 9 5 . . . . . **R L Moore 4**
4 60 **TAX ENOUGH (USA) (30)** B Meehan 9 5 . . . . . **L Dettori 1**

BETTING: 4-5 Safety Check, 6-4 Showpiece, 12-1 Rudi Five One, 20-1 Tax Enough.

3.40 TAMDOWN GROUP E.B.F. FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS 3). £14,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £8,715.

1 000633 **I'M SO GLAD (7) (C)(D)** M Channon 4 9 12 . . . . . **C Bishop (3) 5**
2 0-6133 **CHARLOTTE ROSINA (16) (D)** R Teal 4 9 9 . . . . . **S Sanders 9**
3 2-0002 **ELUSIVE FLAME (23) (CD)** D Elsworth 4 9 9 . . . . . **R L Moore 8**
4 655-20 **POETIC DANCER (49) (D)** C Cox 4 9 8 . . . . . **R Tate (5) 1**
5 5-0012 **LINKS DRIVE LADY (11) (D)** D Ivory 5 9 6 . . . . . **K Fallon 7**
6 0-0645 **TASSEL (22) (D)** R Hannon 3 9 4 . . . . . **M Barzalona 3**
7 24-060 **STRANGE MAGIC (IRE) (28) (D)** R Fahey 3 9 2 . . . . . **E Cagney (7) 6**
8 063101 **HOPES N DREAMS (IRE) (2) (D)** K Ryan 5 9 3(6ex)**Kirsty Milczarek 4**
9 221-51 **MIDNIGHT FLOWER (IRE) (43) (D)** D M Simcock 3 8 10**D E Egan (3) 2**

BETTING: 4-1 Links Drive Lady, 9-2 Elusive Flame, 5-1 Midnight Flower, 11-2 Hopes N Dreams, 7-1 I'm So Glad, Charlotte Rosina, 10-1 Tassel, Poetic Dancer, 16-1 Strange Magic.

4.15 TAMDOWN SHELL & CORE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £5,000 added 3YO only 7f Penalty Value £3,234.

1 0- **MUTHAFAR (IRE) (337)** W Haggas 9 5 . . . . . **M Dwyer 3**
2 5 **SATWA STORY (89)** S Bin Suroor 9 5 . . . . . **M Barzalona 1**
3 43 **NARMIN (IRE) (42)** J Gosden 9 0 . . . . . **R Havlin 2**
4 4 **PILATES (IRE) (9)** M Johnston 9 0 . . . . . **R L Moore 6**
5 05 **QUINTET (IRE) (39)** R Beckett 9 0 . . . . . **L Dettori 5**
6 000000 **SAKHEE'S ALROUND (18)** K Clutterbuck 9 0 . . . . . **A Beschizza 4**

BETTING: 5-4 Narmin, 9-4 Quintet, 4-1 Satwa Story, 8-1 Pilates, 20-1 Muthafar, 100-1 Sakhee's Alround.

4.50 JOE & SARAH MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS 3). £12,000 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £7,763.

1 0305-0 **MAC'S POWER (IRE) (21)** W Musson 7 9 12 . . . . . **K Fallon 1**
2 000300 **PABUSAR (7)** J Osborne 5 9 11 . . . . . **M Dwyer 6**
3 202511 **LAST SOVEREIGN (9) (CD)** O Pears 9 9 11 . . . . . **J Butterfield (7) 2**
4 13-026 **GOLDREAM (7) (C)** R Cowell 4 9 9 . . . . . **L Dettori 7**
5 005012 **DOCTOR PARKES (9) (D)** S C Williams 7 9 9 . . . . . **M Barzalona 8**
6 042014 **TAX FREE (IRE) (8) (CD)** D Nicholls 11 9 7 . . . . . **R L Moore 5**
7 1-0060 **NAABEGHA (15) (D)** E De Giles 6 9 4 . . . . . **L Keniry 9**
8 613140 **MATA HARI BLUE (36) (D)** M Appleby 7 8 13 . . . . . **T Atkinson (5) 4**
9 411011 **CINCINNATI KIT (15) (D)** S C Williams 4 8 7 . . . . . **D E Egan (3) 3**

BETTING: 3-1 Last Sovereign, 7-2 Doctor Parkes, 5-1 Goldream, 6-1 Tax Free, 8-1 Cincinnati Kit, Mac's Power, 14-1 Pabusar, 16-1 Naabegha, Mata Hari Blue.

5.20 TRICONNEX HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 3YO only 1m 2f Penalty Value £12,450.

1 230-20 **THA'IR (IRE) (29)** S Bin Suroor 9 7 . . . . . **M Barzalona 1**
2 141211 **SENNOCKIAN STAR (5)** M Johnston 8 13(6ex) . . . . . **F Tylicki 4**
3 1-1212 **DANAT AL ATHEER (22) (D)(BF)** W Haggas 8 11 . . . . . **L Dettori 5**
4 21 **ENDLESS CREDIT (IRE) (29) (CD)** L Cumani 8 9 . . . . . **K Fallon 6**
5 0321 **CIRCUS TURN (USA) (14) (D)** Sir M Stoute 8 7 . . . . . **R L Moore 2**
6 326500 **GREELEYS LOVE (USA) (9)** M Johnston 8 5 . . . . . **M Dwyer 3**

BETTING: 2-1 Sennockian Star, 7-2 Danat Al Atheer, 4-1 Endless Credit, 5-1 Circus Turn, 6-1 Tha'ir, 16-1 Greeleys Love.

LINGFIELD — Today's runners

Going: : Standard

5.30 ITM 10TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,045.

1 1-0001 **DANA'S PRESENT (8)** G Baker 4 10 5 . . . . . **P Cosgrave 5**
2 601002 **FLAVIUS VICTOR (IRE) (43) (CD)** P Chamings 4 10 0 . . . . **G Baker 8**
3 600-20 **WISE VENTURE (IRE) (59)** A Jarvis 4 9 10 . . . . . **M J Murphy (5) 9**
4 000413 **HAMIS AL BIN (IRE) (9) (BF)** J Bradley 4 9 10 . . . . . **W Pettis (7) 2**
5 060-32 **TAKITWO (43) (D8)** G Deacon 10 9 7 . . . . . **S Sanders 6**
6 433333 **MY OWN WAY HOME (18) (C)** P Evans 5 9 3 . . . . . **A Kirby 3**
7 362120 **CLAUDE GREENWOOD (23) (D)** R Curtis 3 9 3 . . . . . **N Curtis (7) 4**
8 600524 **FAIRY MIST (IRE) (18) (CD)** J Bridger 6 8 9 . . . . . **S Pearce (3) 7**
9 364035 **SURREY DREAM (IRE) (18)** J Bridger 4 8 9 . . . . . **K O'Neill 1**

BETTING: 5-2 Hamis Al Bin, 4-1 My Own Way Home, Flavius Victor, 7-1 Dana's Present, 8-1 Takitwo, 10-1 Wise Venture, 12-1 Surrey Dream, 20-1 Claude Greenwood, Fairy Mist.

6.00 ITM PENSCOPE / IRISH STALLION FARMS E.B.F. MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £3,068.

1 0 **CANARY LAD (IRE) (12)** A Jarvis 9 5 . . . . . **M J Murphy (5) 5**
2 03 **FAINTLY (USA) (32)** Mrs A Perrett 9 5 . . . . . **G Baker 2**
3 **GOLEADOR (USA)** M Botti 9 5 . . . . . **A Kirby 4**
4 56 **THE WALLACE LINE (IRE) (16)** M Channon 9 5 . . . . . **T Durcan 1**
5 **ORMER** P Evans 9 0 . . . . . **D J Bates (5) 3**

BETTING: 13-8 Goleador, 5-2 Ormer, 4-1 Faintly, The Wallace Line, 20-1 Canary Lad.

6.35 ITM EDAART NURSERY (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 2YO only 6f Penalty Value £2,727.

1 516 **CHORD CHART (IRE) (8) (D)** S Bin Suroor 9 7 . . . . . **S De Sousa 3**
2 001 **CAFETIERE (68)** P Cole 9 4 . . . . . **C Catlin 4**
3 163400 **INTENSE FEELING (IRE) (32)** P Evans 9 2 . . . . . **A Kirby 6**
4 31 **SAKURAMACHI (14) (D)** M Channon 8 10 . . . . . **T Durcan 8**
5 3244 **BONJOUR STEVE (12)** J S Moore 8 9 . . . . . **L Jones 2**
6 4260 **PRIMITORIO (IRE) (8)** R Beckett 8 7 . . . . . **M Lane 5**
7 304 **TYRSAL (IRE) (81)** R Eddery 8 1 . . . . . **N Mackay 7**
8 5056 **DOVIL'S DUEL (IRE) (15)** B Millman 8 0 . . . . . **D Probert 1**

BETTING: 7-4 Chord Chart, 5-1 Bonjour Steve, 6-1 Cafetiere, 13-2 Intense Feeling, 7-1 Sakuramachi, 10-1 Primitorio, 12-1 Tyrsal, 14-1 Dovil's Duel.

7.10 ITM EASE AUTO ENROLMENT SOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £2,045.

1 354002 **SONG OF PARKES (21) (D)** P Grayson 6 9 12 . . . . . **S O'Hara (5) 4**
2 51200- **ANSELLS PRIDE (IRE) (288) (CD)** W G M Turner 10 9 12**J Payne (5) 8**
3 4000-3 **GHOST TRAIN (IRE) (30) (D)** T McCarthy 4 9 8 . . . . . **R Tart (5) 5**
4 300315 **THE GREAT GABRIAL (2) (D)(BF)** I Williams 4 9 8 . . . **S De Sousa 2**
5 6-0340 **COMPTON PRINCE (17)** J Bradley 4 9 8 . . . . . **W Pettis (7) 6**
6 000 **KASBHOM (63)** A Carson 3 9 6 . . . . . **W Carson 3**
7 062605 **CHARISMAS BIRTHDAY (IRE) (4) (D)** P Byrne (IRE) 5 8 10 . . . **Cathy Gannon 7**
8 -02542 **PROPER CHARLIE (135) (CD)(BF)** L Carter 5 8 10 . . . . . **K Fox 1**

BETTING: 3-1 The Great Gabrial, 7-2 Proper Charlie, 4-1 Song Of Parkes, 5-1 Ghost Train, 13-2 Charismas Birthday, 10-1 Ansells Pride, 16-1 Kasbhom, 25-1 Compton Prince.

7.45 EPORTAL CLAIMING STAKES (AWT) (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3 to 5YO 1m Penalty Value £2,045.

1 000-00 **KING TORUS (IRE) (7) (D)** J Osborne 5 9 10 . . . . . **A Kirby 1**
2 010022 **FOR SHIA AND LULA (IRE) (9) (D)** D Loughnane 4 9 3 . . **S W Kelly 5**
3 /0000- **YASIR (USA) (290)** C Dore 5 9 3 . . . . . **G Baker 8**
4 6254-0 **RIOJA DAY (IRE) (81)** J Hills 3 9 2 . . . . . **S Sanders 4**
5 232306 **PRINCE OF BURMA (IRE) (8) (CD)** J Gask 5 9 1 . . . . . **R Clark (3) 3**
6 00-040 **PLAY TIGER (FR) (11)** P Hiatt 4 9 0 . . . . . **W Carson 9**
7 010 **WATSON SAMA (39)** Miss A Weaver 3 8 13 . . . . . **S De Sousa 2**
8 0-6 **ESTIBDAAD (IRE) (47)** A Honeyball 3 8 11 . . . . . **S Drowne 10**
9 225226 **MOMENT IN THE SUN (11) (CD)** D Flood 4 8 9 . . . . . **R Tart (5) 6**
10 306-00 **CIO CIO SAN (IRE) (18)** W G M Turner 3 8 0 . . . . . **N Garbutt (7) 7**

BETTING: 3-1 Yasir, 4-1 Prince Of Burma, 5-1 King Torus, 11-2 For Shia And Lula, 8-1 Watson Sama, 10-1 Moment In The Sun, 12-1 Estibdaad, 14-1 Rioja Day, 16-1 others.

8.15 ITM EMEMBER CLASSIFIED SELLING STAKES (AWT) (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 3YO PLUS 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,045.

1 160410 **BEAUCHAMP XERXES (19) (C)** H Adielsson 7 9 11 **Nicole Nordblad (5) 2**
2 310031 **MATRAASH (USA) (10) (CD)** D Loughnane 7 9 11 . . . . . **S W Kelly 5**
3 0-0046 **TARTAN TRIP (23)** L Dace 6 9 5 . . . . . **L Treadwell 4**
4 -00005 **VERMEYEN (24)** G Deacon 4 9 5 . . . . . **D J Bates (5) 6**
5 132/04 **WAAHEJ (26) (D)(BF)** P Hiatt 7 9 5 . . . . . **C Catlin 1**
6 5006 **DARK RUMOUR (IRE) (5)** J Bridger 3 8 9 . . . . . **S Pearce (3) 3**

BETTING: 13-8 Matraash, 3-1 Waahej, 7-2 Beauchamp Xerxes, 4-1 Tartan Trip, 16-1 Vermeyen, 50-1 Dark Rumour.

8.45 E-DATA DICTIONARY FILLIES' HANDICAP (AWT) (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,068.

1 112255 **FLAMBOROUGH BREEZE (19)** E Vaughan 4 10 0 . . . . . **G Baker 5**
2 522034 **CHRISSYCROSS (IRE) (26) (C)** R Teal 4 9 6 . . . . . **A Kirby 2**
3 2144 **MOVEMENTNEVERLIES (47)** C Hills 3 9 4 . . . . . **S Drowne 3**
4 54-613 **FAST PACE (14) (D)** Mrs A Perrett 3 9 3 . . . . . **R Havlin 7**
5 0-5252 **JUST DARCY (19) (BF)** Sir M Stoute 3 8 13 . . . . . **P Dobbs 6**
6 6302-0 **SIGNATURE DISH (IRE) (36)** A Balding 3 8 12 . . . . . **M Dwyer 8**
7 0-63 **MESMERIZED (IRE) (50)** M Botti 3 8 10 . . . . . **N Callan 1**
8 -51405 **DILETTA TOMMASA (IRE) (68)** J Stimpson 3 8 7 . . **Cathy Gannon 4**

BETTING: 5-2 Just Darcy, 4-1 Fast Pace, 5-1 Movementneverlies, Mesmerized, 8-1 Chrissycross, Flamborough Breeze, 14-1 Signature Dish, 16-1 Diletta Tommasa.

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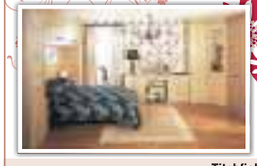

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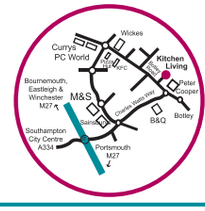

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French bed, sat system 37,200 miles	£20,995
2005 Trigano Tribute Van Conversion	
2 berth, 3 belts, 18ft 4" long, bathroom	£20,750
2004 McLouis Glen 430,	
24,000 miles, 20ft 2" long, 6 berths, overhead cab, rear bunk beds	£18,950
1999 Eldiss Autoquest EK	
5 berths 4 belts, Rear Galley Kitchen, pretty fabric	£14,750
1997 Swift Suntor 500 4 berth	
rear lounge 56,260 miles	£13,995
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STAR MEN: Sholing players celebrate a win in the Southern League last year.

Barker not daunted by Sholing opener

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

AFTER facing title tips Bemerton, Moneyfields, Christchurch and Downton in their opening four games last season, Romsey Town boss Danny Barker recently quipped: "Knowing us, we'll start this year with Sholing away!"

Little did he know how right he would turn out to be.

When the new Sydenhams Premier fixture list was published, it handed the Bypass boys a daunting trip to the Boatmen's Portsmouth Road stronghold on Tuesday, August 6.

Having voluntarily dropped down from the Southern League, where they finished seventh in Division One South & West last term, Sholing are many people's favourites to lift the Wessex crown.

Barker, right, could think of easier ways to kick off the new season but admits to having mixed feelings about being flung in at the deep end.

He said: "When the fixtures came out part of me wished we'd been given a kinder game on paper to get the season going.

"But, on the flip side, it's the first league game of the season, there's no real pressure on us and you wonder if it might be a good time to meet Sholing.

"We'll be going into the new season very positive and trying to win every game. But there are no easy games in this league, so I don't think it matters where you go. It would be just as difficult being away to Brockenhurst or Verwood.

"All I'll be saying to our lads is don't be afraid of a challenge.

"They couldn't ask for a better reason to try and get into the side for a game like that."

Although Romsey were lucky to escape relegation last term, their squad already looks in a far healthier state with quality additions like Connor McCarthy, Sol Asajile, Jordan Sako and Ryan Augustine.

"You sense we're far better off than we were and I'm already confident it won't be like last year," said Barker.

"The Wessex Premier is getting stronger and stronger and I think it will eventually be as strong as the league above.

"But we're quite capable of getting ourselves into mid-table and avoiding a situation where we're looking over our shoulders every week. That's the challenge for us. I'm not setting our targets any higher than that."

And Romsey have further strengthened their squad thanks to a mutually beneficial relationship they have struck up with Conference South neighbours Eastleigh.

Two Spitfires' reserve players – central midfielder Jamie Bulpitt and midfielder/forward Geoff Dunn – have dual-signed for the Bypass boys for the upcoming campaign.

They join left-back Josh Green, an ex-Eastleigh second-stringer, who has signed for Romsey on a permanent basis.

"We've struck up a relationship with Dan Wright, Eastleigh's reserve team manager," Barker explained.

"I know Dan myself and Andy Samuels, who has joined us as a first-team coach, is close to him.

"We've had various meetings with Eastleigh and they're happy for the two lads, Jamie and Geoff, to come to us for this season and get games.

"They're young, hungry, talented lads who will add a lot of energy to our squad."

Romsey continue their pre-season programme away to Sussex Division One side Selsey on Tuesday.

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

Saturday, July 20
AFC Portchester v Pagham
Blackfield & Langley v Wimborne Town.
Brockenhurst v Burridge
Buckland Athletic v Bournemouth Poppies
Chelsea XI v Horndean (at Cobham)
Cowes Sports Res v Follands Sports Res (1.30)
Cowes Sports v Follands Sports (3.45)
East Cowes Vics v Winchester City
Eastleigh v Aldershot Town
Frimley Green v Alresford Town
Hamworthy Utd v Badshot Lea
Havant & Waterlooville v Newport County
Holt Utd v Christchurch
Hythe & Dibden v Michelmersh & Timsbury (at Applemore College)
Locks Heath v Totton & Eling (2.00)
Lymington Town v Colden Common (at Pennington Sports Ground)
Melksham Town v Amesbury Town
New Milton v Wareham Rangers
Pewsey Vale v Fareham Town
Poole Town v Dorchester Town
Salisbury City v Torquay Utd
Verwood Town v AFC Bournemouth Development Squad
Woking v AFC Bournemouth

Monday, July 22
Team Solent v Whitchurch

Tuesday, July 23
Andover NS v Overton (Dango Tournament at Foxcotte Park, 7.30)
Blackfield & Langley v Bashley
Brockenhurst v Eastleigh XI
Cowes Sports v Newport IoW
Hamworthy Rec v Verwood Town (6.30)
Hamworthy Utd v Portland Utd
Havant & Waterlooville v Fareham Town
Hythe & Dibden v Bemerton HH (at Applemore College)
Ludgershall v Amesbury Town (7.15)
Fleet Town v Gosport Borough
New Milton v Poole Borough
Parley Sports v Christchurch (7.00)
Ringwood Town v Alresford Town
Selsey v Romsey Town
US Portsmouth v Totton & Eling (7.15)
Wimborne Town v AFC Bournemouth Youth
Winchester City v AFC Totton (7.30)

Wednesday, July 24
Salisbury City v Portsmouth
Stockbridge v Winchester Castle (7.30)

Thursday, July 25
Merley CS v Bournemouth Poppies
Team Solent v Cadnam Utd
US Portsmouth v AFC Portchester
Whitchurch Utd v Thatcham Town (Dango Tournament at Foxcotte Park, 7.30).

Friday, July 26
Eastleigh v SAINTS Under-21s (7.30)
Salisbury City v Bristol Rovers

Saturday, July 27
Badshot Lea v Alresford Town
Basingstoke Town v Aldershot Town
Bemerton HH v Wimborne Town
Cowes Sports v Sholing
Dango Tournament finals at Foxcotte Park (3 v 4 1.00, final 3.30)
Gillingham Town v Blackfield & Langley
Hamworthy Utd v Thatcham Town
Hedge End Rangers v Hythe & Dibden (at Stoneham Park, 2.00)
Laverstock & Ford v Poole Borough
New Milton v Totton & Eling
Michelmersh & Timsbury v Burridge (Test Park, 2.30)
Redditch Utd v Gosport Borough
Selsey v Bournemouth Poppies
Trowbridge v Amesbury Town
Wick v Fareham Town
Winchester City v Fleet Town

Monday, July 29
Team Solent v GE Hamble

Tuesday, July 30
AFC Portchester v Broadbridge Heath
Andover New Street v Hartley Wintney (7.30)
Arundel v Romsey Town
Bashley v Verwood Town
Basingstoke Town v Salisbury City
Christchurch v Poole Town
Colden Common v Totton & Eling (7.00)
Eastleigh v Woking (7.30)
Fareham Town v Chichester City
Farnham Town v Alresford Town XI
Gosport Borough v Portsmouth.
Winchester Castle v Alresford Town XI

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ISSN 0969-563X
P 55p ISSN 0969-563X
Published by Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd, and printed at Newsquest (Southern) Ltd, from its offices at Newspaper House, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX. Telephone: 023 8042 4800. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. 122nd year. No. 37449